

ELIZABETH'S STORY

■ Exclusive serialisation of Sarah Bradford's biography of the Queen
■ An acclaimed historian's intimate account of a wife, mother and monarch



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EDUCATION



Why the Swiss and Germans win, P35

Attempt to cool leadership fever

Major opens up debate on EU policy

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Wood

JOHN MAJOR pleased the Tory Euro-sceptics yesterday by bowing to pressure for a White Paper laying out the Government's position on Europe in the run-up to negotiations on the future of the European Union.

The move, which took ministers and MPs by surprise, came amid a ministerial drive to calm a renewed bout of leadership fever sparked by suggestions that previously loyal backbenchers have been plotting against Mr Major.

The White Paper was announced after Mr Major took his sharpest sideswipe yet at Baroness Thatcher over her attack last week on One Nation Conservatism. Pointing to his record in cutting inflation, mortgage rates and unemployment, he declared: "That is what she, when Prime Minister, sought to achieve. It is what we have delivered."

Mr Major was in buoyant mood and backbenchers said that the White Paper move and a 0.25 percentage point cut in interest rates were deeply political. "He is thinking electorally all the time," one said. Last night the 18-strong executive of the 1992 committee reaffirmed its strong support for Mr Major.

The decision on the White Paper was taken at short notice by the Cabinet yesterday. As recently as Tuesday senior ministers had indicated that the decision was not close, and on Wednesday Tory MPs voted against a Labour call in a Commons committee.

Officials confirmed that Mr Major had decided to bring

Deck is cleared for early election

The Conservatives are making contingency plans for a general election this autumn. The party has booked accommodation in October for press conferences and other election events at the television and media centre at Millbank, close to the Houses of Parliament, and other Westminster sites.

Similar arrangements have been made for April, 1997, which remains the most favoured date for an election.

the matter to Cabinet after talking to Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and that he had secured "unanimous" agreement. Even so, the decision meant that Mr Major would have had to overcome reservations of pro-European ministers.

The sceptics had been pushing for a White Paper so that the Government could be held to account during the inter-governmental conference in March. The objective, officials said, was to produce a realistic document setting out aims without giving away the bottom line negotiating position.

Although ministers insist that the document will not tie their hands it is a victory for the sceptics and could ease Mr Major's position. Bill Walker, a Euro-sceptic, said: "I'm delighted we'll be given an opportunity to debate in order that the Government can be

sure of how Parliament views the position." Hugh Dykes, a Euro-enthusiast, said that the Government was right to rule out a detailed negotiating document.

But Mr Major could be stirring up trouble. Euro-sceptic MP Bill Cash said that he would be looking for firm pledges on a single currency, no more majority voting and curbing the powers of the European Court — almost certainly too much for Mr Major to promise.

The Chancellor Kenneth Clarke headed a line of ministers who condemned any suggestion of a fresh challenge to Mr Major. "I would deplore any leadership challenge," he told BBC Radio.

Sir Norman Fowler, the former Conservative chairman, blamed the speculation on a "maverick minority". "The vast majority of the parliamentary party is entirely behind John Major and want to see him lead the party into the next election," he said. But a right-wing Conservative said: "I would not be at all surprised if some on the left of the party were not jockeying for position. There's a lot of discontent there, as shown by Alistair Burt's letter to *The Times* criticising Lady Thatcher's speech."

In the Commons Mr Major laughed off the reports, saying it was "silly speculation... it has been nonsense in the past and it is nonsense now."

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Ellen Curran and Jonathan, who was the first child to undergo the revolutionary technique at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow

Breakthrough in meningitis treatment

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

DOCTORS in Glasgow believe they have devised a revolutionary technique that could save the lives of hundreds of children facing death from meningitis. Four children who received the treatment in the past year have survived. Doctors said yesterday that had they not had the treatment, three would have died.

The technique for treating meningococcal septicaemia, a virulent form of meningitis that results in blood poisoning, has been devised by doctors at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow. The treatment involves "washing" the patient's blood through a filter to clear it of

toxins as soon as the illness takes hold. The filtration, known as haemo-diafiltration, is similar to that used in kidney dialysis but is a simpler procedure that could be carried out by most hospitals.

The first child to be treated was three-year-old Jonathan Curran from Coatbridge, who contracted meningococcal septicaemia in March. His mother, Ellen, 32, said the illness progressed rapidly: "Within an hour my son was dying before my eyes."

Within four hours of reaching the intensive care ward in Glasgow, treatment began. Jonathan was in intensive care for 3½ weeks and in hospital for two months. His parents

were told that he had six hours to live. As a result of the blood poisoning, his left leg was amputated below the knee. Meningitis kills 500 people in Britain every year, many of them children. Deaths from meningococcal septicaemia are not given separately.

The treatment was the brainchild of Dr Crispin Best, consultant anaesthetist and paediatric intensive care specialist, and his team. He was not convinced the treatment would work, but knew it would do no harm. The patients were so close to death he had nothing to lose.

"Instead of waiting for renal failure before starting filtration we decided to try starting

the treatment immediately. It is a fairly simple procedure by intensive care standards. All you need is a decent tube, a good-size vein, a pump and a filter." He emphasised that it was not a cure, adding that that four patients represented too small a sample to state categorically that the treatment worked, but he said the early impression was that it could save lives.

Every paediatric intensive care unit and almost every adult intensive care unit will have the necessary equipment. The treatment is simpler than that tried at Guy's hospital, London, which involves placing the patient on a heart/lung machine. These are available

at fewer than half a dozen hospitals. □ Borko and Vera Kronic, the parents of a 17-year-old student who died from meningococcal septicaemia, last night said they would sue Ealing Hospital, west London, for allegedly failing to recognise her symptoms.

Alison died on Tuesday morning after a doctor allegedly said she was suffering from a bad cold and gave her a painkilling injection.

□ A schoolboy, 15, from Stevenage, Hertfordshire has died from meningococcal septicaemia. He was taken ill on Monday evening and died on Wednesday afternoon. He has not yet been identified.

Clarke rate cut boosts share prices

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

KENNETH CLARKE yesterday cut interest rates for the second month running, a move which delighted the financial markets but is unlikely to give another boost to homeowners.

The Chancellor cut base lending rates from 6.5 per cent to 6.25 per cent, but leading building societies said that they would leave their mortgage rates unchanged.

The unexpected cut, which followed Wednesday's monthly meeting between Mr Clarke and Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, sent the FTSE index to a record closing high of 3748.7, up 44.5 points on the day.

City welcome, page 23
Pennington, page 25

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



Alive and kicking: the peculiar charm of cheerleading, in the Magazine

Dad, can we go to Duploland? Family holidays that work, in Weekend

PLUS

Weekend Money, Car 96, 1015 for young Times readers and Vision, the seven-day TV and radio guide

HGV drivers fear for jobs over Brussels eye-test rule

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

THOUSANDS of spectacle-wearing lorry and bus drivers face losing their jobs because of a new Brussels ruling that will force them to pass eye tests without their glasses on.

The regulation, which comes into effect throughout the European Union on July 1, is aimed at improving road safety by forcing poorly sighted drivers of heavy vehicles off the roads.

From that date all heavy goods vehicle and bus drivers will have to meet tough standards for their vision in both eyes when they reapply for their licences. Because of fears that drivers could be temporarily blinded if their glasses are knocked off or contact lenses pop out in the cab, they will have to pass their tests using their uncorrected vision. The previous directive

allowed drivers to carry on working with one bad eye as long as the unaided vision in the other eye met the standard. It also required drivers reapplying for their licences to meet only the standard in force when they first qualified.

A Department of Transport spokesman said the new test demands that drivers who wear glasses must be able to see at 3 ft with uncorrected vision what a normal sighted person can see at 60 ft. Hauliers predicted last night that the new regulation would end the careers of thousands of drivers. An estimated 60 per cent of drivers wear glasses or contact lenses. Bob Tervis, managing director of the Southampton-based Meachers Transport, said: "It is absolutely ridiculous. I suppose it is possible glasses

could fall off but it is hardly a common occurrence. It is easy enough to wear a strap to prevent that."

Jim Good, 54, from Southampton, whose licence is up for renewal in three years, said he would not be able to continue his job. "I've been driving for 25 years and my glasses have not ever fallen."

Transport unions said the Government's forecast that about 3,000 drivers would lose their jobs as a result of the directive was a severe underestimate. But the spokesman for the Department of Transport dismissed the fear. "Yes, we recognise some drivers are going to lose their licences and yes, that is something we regret, but it is important that with vehicles of this size we are absolutely sure they are in safe hands."

Yeltsin claims siege victory

President Yeltsin claimed victory over the Chechen guerrillas last night saying that 82 hostages had been freed from the village of Pervomaiskoye after four days of fighting.

However, reports from the front line said that the leader of the group and a number of his fighters had broken through the Russian lines and escaped into Chechnya the previous night. There was also doubt about how many hostages survived. Page 15

Climbdown on prisoner chaining

The Home Secretary has announced a government climbdown on the shackling of women prisoners after protests from hospital staff and the Royal College of Midwives.

Michael Howard told MPs that prisoners taken to hospital to give birth would not be chained or handcuffed after arriving. Page 2

GPs offered 'more rewarding' hospital role

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

A RADICAL shake-up of the way family doctors work was announced by Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, yesterday.

Britain's 30,000 GPs will be expected to treat accident and emergency cases, chronic illness and mental health patients under a national contract to be drawn up over the next year. Family doctors will work in

hospitals under the supervision of consultants as well as carrying out minor surgery and post-operative care in GP surgeries.

More patients would be treated at home rather than in hospital under the proposals partly designed to ease growing pressure on hospital beds.

Nurses working for GP practices would take on extra duties such as prescribing drugs and seeing regular patients with minor problems, freeing doctors for more serious ailments.

Mr Dorrell outlined his plan for primary health care services to GP leaders yesterday afternoon, pledging "reasonable rewards for reasonable workloads".

In an earlier interview, he admitted legislation might be needed for parts of the contract, which would be detailed in a consultation paper this summer after discussions with the medical profession. But he emphasised he wanted to proceed with most changes as soon as possible

— he hoped within a year — provided he won GPs' agreement.

The proposals represented "a huge opportunity to improve the quality of service to patients and make work more rewarding for staff," he said.

This first major reform of GP services since 1990 met a cautious response from the British Medical Association. Doctors welcomed Mr Dorrell's "constructive approach" but feared extra work would not be matched with extra money.

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Crusading hyenas and other laughing matters

Immersed in their pet subjects, politicians often talk what would be total gibberish to the rest of the world. For months the Home Secretary has been prone to make sudden references to bumble bees — a police operation, apparently. Yesterday David Maclean, a junior Home Office minister, started raving about hyenas. Informed by Tom Cox (Lab, Tooting) that cars were being stolen in Manchester on order for Australia, Maclean boasted that "the hyenas campaign" would soon put a stop to that.

The hyenas campaign? What were hyenas campaign-

ing about? Having never been lobbied by a hyena, it was hard to picture.

Next to strain credulity was Peter Luff (C, Worcester), who warned the PM about Labour's "shabby" backroom deals. Shabby? "Sorry," stammered Mr Luff. "shabby." He may have meant shady; or shoddy; or shabby; or even scabby. Or crabby? Or perhaps he did not know what he meant. The hyenas will get him.

We moved to Michael Howard's statement — an awkward climbdown, conducted with poise — about the treatment of pregnant women pris-



oners. All at once, it seems, we "manacle" prisoners. Or else, according to MPs, we "shackle" them, or keep them "in chains".

By contrast, ministers speak of "securing" prisoners. One set of terms evokes a picture of wretches chained to dripping walls. "Securing" suggests a friendly officer, perhaps, holding the prisoner firmly by the hand. Of course what both sides are discussing is the handcuffing of prisoners: the one word nobody seems to use.

So the frustration of Michael Fabricant (C, Mid-Staffs) was understandable. Bouncing up and down whenever manacles were mentioned (and interrupting the complaints of the Labour spokesman Jack Straw with shouts of "They're criminals — convicted criminals") Fabricant then got up to tell MPs that they

were "not discussing innocent young girls". Gathering steam, he added: "They're not balls and chains," then subsided, spluttering "anyway, they're light manacles".

Then rage overcame him once more. Angela Eagle (Lab, Wallasey) was protesting that the mother might be a criminal, "but the babies are innocent". Fabricant blew a fuse. "The babies aren't shackled," he barked; then, in total rage: "we aren't shackling the foetus".

Manacles, shackled foetuses, hyenas... I was having trouble getting my head round all this, when Dr Norman

Godman (Lab, Greenock & Port Glasgow) rose to inform the Home Secretary that a prisoner had been operated on for haemorrhoids while manacled to a prison officer. "The officer was masked and gowned," added Godman, mysteriously, "as it was an operation".

Presumably the prisoner was masked and gowned, too. Two masked and gowned figures, handcuffed together, wheeled in for a haemorrhoid operation. Dreadful if they got the wrong one.

Up in the Press Gallery, hilariously wrestled sympathy. As indeed it did when

Labour's Chris Mullins archly told John Major: "I'm sorry to see the bastards are plotting again. And it's not your fault. It's just your bad luck to be Prime Minister when the bills are coming in from the Thatcher era. It's not a leadership election your backbench MPs need, it's a general election. That would soon shut them up."

We could all but see the tears of gratitude welling in the PM's eyes as he recognised this inadmissible but wholly accurate expression of what he almost certainly believes himself.

He denied it, of course.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Signs of life on distant planets

Two planets discovered circling distant stars might harbour life, but not as we know it. Paul Murdin, director of science at the British National Space Centre, said yesterday. Gravity would be so powerful that creatures living there would be "short and fat, not long and thin like us", he said after the announcement in Texas that two planets have been found where temperatures might be cool enough to allow liquid water to exist. One is in the Virgo constellation, the other in the Great Bear. Both appear to be large planets with big cores. The next step in the search for life would be to find evidence of oxygen in the atmosphere of planets elsewhere.

Are we alone? page 18

Cardinal attacks divorce Bill

Cardinal Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, today adds his voice to opposition to the Lord Chancellor's divorce Bill, saying that further thought must be given to the issue of fault. Writing in *The Tablet*, the Roman Catholic weekly, he also argues that the Bill does not go far enough to underline the seriousness of breaking the marriage contract and doubts Lord MacKay of Clashfern's ability to predict the impact of his reforms.

Gulf cuts prices

Gulf Oil stepped into what it called the "savage and futile" pump price wars and cut the price of its unleaded petrol by 7p a litre. From midnight tonight, the highest price for a litre of unleaded fuel at Gulf's 500 service stations will fall to 56.9p. Esso triggered the latest forecast battle by scrapping its Tiger tokens in favour of lower prices. Shell then cut its prices by up to 4.4p.

Ban escaped

MPs and motoring organisations criticised a court's decision not to disqualify the footballer Chris Armstrong for driving at 104mph. Armstrong, 24, of Chigwell, Essex, who plays for Tottenham Hotspur, told circuit magistrates it would cause him difficulty in getting to training sessions. He was fined £500, given six penalty points and ordered to pay £30 costs.

Defence order

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, confirmed yesterday that Land Rover has been given an order for 800 Army ambulances and 8,000 other military trucks that will safeguard more than 500 jobs in the British industry. The ambulance contract was won after fierce competition from an Austrian company, Steyr Daimler Puch, which has got a £4 million order for trucks.

Potato crop fear

A potentially devastating crop disease has been detected in a consignment of imported Dutch seed potatoes. The Ministry of Agriculture has disclosed. The brown rot infection is spreading rapidly through potato farms in The Netherlands, from which British growers import 25 per cent of their early seed varieties. Once in the soil the infection is difficult to eliminate.

Ticket rethink

British Rail backed down in a dispute over passengers who, due to an anomaly, have been paying more for travelling one stop than for two stops. Passengers at Sevenoaks buying the cheaper fare faced a £10 penalty if they left the train at the first stop. But after intervention by the Rail Regulator, the South Eastern train company has told staff not to impose penalty fares.

Howard backs down on chaining of pregnant prisoners

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Home Secretary announced a government climb-down on the shackling of women prisoners yesterday after protests from hospitals and the Royal College of Midwives.

Michael Howard told MPs that prisoners taken to hospital to give birth would not be chained or handcuffed after arriving. He has also relaxed the policy on women attending antenatal clinics and regulations on male and female inmates attending outpatient appointments.

Mr Howard said that the new arrangements would strike "a reasonable balance" between security and treating prisoners with humanity.

But Jack Straw, Shadow

Home Secretary, told him in the Commons: "You have been driven to this humiliating retreat not by decency or by compassion, but by panic at the avalanche of bad publicity."

The controversy began after a television programme showed Annette Walker, a serial thief, shackled during part of her labour at the Whittington Hospital, north London. Earlier this week ministers defended the restraint policy.

Under the revised regulations, which were sent to prison governors last night, pregnant prisoners will be handcuffed during the journey to hospital but the restraints will be removed on arrival. In most circumstances they will

be escorted by two female prison officers and jail staff will not be present in the delivery room unless the woman requests it.

Women visiting hospital for antenatal checks will have restraints removed when they reach the waiting room unless there is an exceptionally high risk of escape.

Governors will also be able to allow the removal of restraints on men and women prisoners attending hospital if a risk assessment suggests they will not attempt to escape. The inmate will, however, be escorted by two prison officers. Mr Howard indicated that restraints would continue to be used in most cases.

The softening of the guidelines, which were introduced



Jack Straw, left, said Michael Howard had been panicked into changing the rules on restraint

in April 1994, was given qualified approval by penal reform groups. Paul Cavadino, chairman of the Penal Affairs Consortium, said: "This belated shift towards a more humane policy is welcome. However, the change is a limited one."

He complained that the guidelines, drawn up after

talks between the Prison Service and the Royal College of Midwives, would still mean that women were handcuffed during funerals, visits to elderly relatives and civil court proceedings. "Most women prisoners pose little, if any, security risk. Handcuffing them should be the exception rather than the general rule."

BBC blocks the 2-minute political broadcast

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC has blocked a Labour Party plan to ease the pain of viewers by reducing the length of party political broadcasts to just two minutes.

The corporation feared viewers would not be able to absorb complicated political messages in short bursts and that there was a risk of mistaking them for advertisements. The broad-

casts were introduced in 1953 and were halved to five minutes in the late 1970s.

The corporation conceded last night that many viewers regard party political broadcasts as a tedious disruption to their normal viewing but warned Labour that shorter broadcasts would confuse audiences. "It is felt that five minutes is the absolute minimum amount of time that a party can inform people about their policies and viewpoints," a BBC spokeswoman said.

Dave Hill, Labour's head of press, said he was disappointed at the BBC's decision. The party would continue to press for two-minute broadcasts. "You have to put the message across in a way which meets the expectations of viewers today. A shorter, sharper message will seem like less of an interruption and will be less likely to make unsuspecting audiences switch off. A greater number of shorter messages will be more effective. Every-

thing is moving in that direction." A spokesman for Conservative Central Office said that if broadcasts were made very short, there was a danger that viewers would find them hard to distinguish from programme trailers and commercials. "Another danger with short broadcasts is that they force you into being very negative. Most American political advertising is 30 seconds long and it is heavily negative," he said.

Top judge urges tough drink-drive penalties

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chief Justice made clear yesterday that heavy drink-drivers should be jailed and he warned courts against following a judge's comment that to jail a man who was four times over the limit was "utterly inappropriate".

Lord Taylor of Gossforth issued his guidance to magistrates after a Court of Appeal ruling last summer in which Mr Justice Sachs quashed a two-month jail sentence and substituted a fine of £500.

Magistrates and justices' clerks expressed concern last week that the appeal court ruling could undermine their powers to jail drivers above the legal alcohol limits. Delivering judgment last August, Mr Justice Sachs said: "It can never be appropriate to send a man for this criminality, at the lower end of the scale as it is, to prison. There are other perfectly appropriate ways of dealing with people who drive with excess alcohol."

Yesterday Lord Taylor, sitting on another drink-driving appeal, said courts should not follow the observations in the case last summer.

A feeling had been growing among MPs that Michael Heseltine was the man who might give them hope. Why did Major take the risk of being supplanted? And how did he engineer that some of those with the deepest doubts about his leadership, became so prominent in the campaign to re-elect him?

Lady Thatcher is known to have confided to one friend that there must be an unknown factor behind Mr Major's brave decision. That was also the suspicion of Westminster insiders as Mr Major launched his gambit and brilliantly pulled it off. They had to wait months before the first element that no one had known about emerged. Mr Heseltine revealed in an interview with *The Times* in December that he had been informally offered the job of deputy prime minister three weeks before Mr Major called the leadership election.

The interview disclosed that well before he made his move Mr Major had spoken of a significant promotion for the man who at the time was favourite to succeed him. Mr Major got Mr Heseltine on his side well in advance. Mr Heseltine told *The Times* that such a "Machiavellian



John Major with Michael Heseltine yesterday, the man Tories thought could give them hope

British children trailing in maths

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

OVER-RELIANCE on calculators and too little attention to mental arithmetic are leaving British primary school children up to two years behind their Continental counterparts in mathematics, according to a report published today.

A study of textbooks and teaching methods in Britain, Germany and Switzerland found that British schools devote about half their mathematics lessons to arithmetic, compared with 80 per cent elsewhere in Europe. They also spend less time practising the basics.

The report, by Helvia Bierhoff, a German researcher, argues that the division of the national curriculum for mathematics into five areas prevents primary school teachers giving their pupils sufficient grounding in arithmetic. German and Swiss teachers spend up to

five times as much class time on practice and consolidation before moving on to new topics. Continental teachers also rely more on textbooks, which have to be approved by the Government. Dr Bierhoff says English schools are "reinventing the wheel" by producing their own schemes of work, which treat textbooks simply as one source of material.

Swiss teachers visiting British schools as part of the study by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research found that ten-year-olds were between one and two years behind Swiss pupils. Professor Sig Prais, the institute's head of research, said the findings demonstrated the urgency of new guidance on teaching mathematics in state schools.

Academics and politicians have been increasingly critical of school mathematics in recent months. Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, is planning a network of regional

centres to help primary schools to teach basic numeracy more effectively.

The report comes as the Government prepares to publish the results of the first national tests of 11-year-olds that are expected to confirm deficiencies in mathematics. Mrs Shephard has already ordered a calculator-free test this year and wants mental arithmetic to be tested separately in future.

Professor Margaret Brown, an academic from King's College London who chaired the Joint Mathematical Association last year, said Britain's international standing was often underestimated, but there were clear areas of weakness, especially in arithmetic. She said other international studies had shown British pupils near the average for Europe, but behind their counterparts in countries around the Pacific Rim.

Education, page 35

HEAL'S WINTER SALE ENDS THIS WEEKEND

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'She can write, she can draw but she does not use any of it in a permanent or stable way'

The naked truth shocks father of anti-car protester

By STEPHEN FARRELL

THE roads protester who stripped naked in Coventry Cathedral is the daughter of a consultant metallurgist who specialises in metal forming — turning sheet metal into cars.

Roger Pearce did not recognise her from newspaper and television pictures until *The Times* yesterday broke the news that "Angel Koyanti" was his daughter Lucy, a drama graduate.

Mr Pearce, 70, from St Keverne, Cornwall, told how his 35-year-old daughter became a tepee-dwelling "eco warrior" prepared to daub herself in slogans before Prince Michael of Kent.

However, his first reaction was: "I have seen the lady's picture on the front page of the newspaper and it certainly is

not Lucy." On being told that "Angel" gave police the name Lucy Pearce and spoke of graduating from Exeter University, he paused, consulted his wife Eileen, and said: "Oh dear, now I have looked at the picture again with Lucy's step-mother I have changed my mind. Without doubt it is Lucy Pearce. It never crossed my mind: nobody thinks their daughter is running naked out of Coventry Cathedral."

He last heard from her two days ago, when she sent a letter from the camp on the A30 outside Exeter where, under the tribal name Angel Quercus, she prepares to confront roadbuilders.

"I do not approve of fighting battles that you cannot win, and one of those is stopping

people building roads when all the bureaucratic procedure has gone through and planning permission is granted," Mr Pearce said last night.

Ms Pearce was born in North Hinksey, Oxfordshire. Her mother Gwendoline died of a fractured skull in a car crash in Bedfordshire in August 1965. Ms Pearce, the youngest of three children, was then five.

Mr Pearce said his daughter left Bedford High School after taking O levels in arts subjects then went to work for the Milton Keynes Development Corporation. She then became a gardener, training at Merrist Wood Agricultural College. It was there she became interested in drama.

She crammed, without a tutor, obtained an A level in English and won a place at Exeter University to study drama, graduating with a 2:1 in 1992.

Yesterday Ms Pearce set aside her deep beliefs for the sake of practicality and returned to her fellow demonstrators in a car. She arrived back at the protest site at Allerncombe after accepting a lift in a journalist's car, saying: "Well, we have to get in one sometime."

She added: "This morning I went out and got all the papers to see what they made of me. They don't seem to understand I was emulating Lady Godiva or what the protest was really about. They just wanted to show my body."

"Everyone wants to know about my mother dying and my nephew having asthma



Lucy Pearce back at her camp at Allerncombe yesterday, having accepted a lift there in a journalist's car. "We have to get in one sometime"



"Angel Koyanti" making her protest during the service on Wednesday to mark the car's centenary

but it's about much more than that. My mother did die in a car crash when I was five but it is not something I really want to talk about, though I suppose it must have something to do with it all.

"I suppose I have been an environmentalist ever since I can remember. I always felt this way, regardless of what was happening in my personal life."

"My nephew's situation does worry me, though. Even

the Government's Chief Medical Officer, has admitted car pollution is a secondary cause of breathing difficulties. During the hot summer we were all advised it was dangerous for asthmatic children to go outside because of the high levels of pollution. How would you like to tell your child he can't run outside because of the car?"

Mr Pearce said of his daughter: "She's a very bright girl, but she is not doing the

sort of things that elderly fathers think their daughters should do. I think she became an activist when she went to Exeter. It was in her make-up. She was a mature student so it was very easy for her to get involved or even be the ring-leader of certain left-wing activities, although left-wing is not quite the right word."

"We went to talk to her lecturers and I remember one of them said to me, 'What's it like having a rebel for a

daughter?' I said, 'I don't know, it is just nice to have a nice daughter'."

"She can write, she can draw but she does not use any of it in any permanent or stable way. She gets swept into demonstrations and to go off and live in benders, which I understand are wicker igloos."

"However, there has never been any anger here. She, Eileen and I have always been a happy family. I've told her several times that I thought

someone having a 2:1 from Exeter ought to do something more useful than living off the State and fighting battles she couldn't win, but she said, 'Don't get on at me, Dad.'"

Last night an acquaintance from Exeter said he was not surprised at the naked protest. "She has always been quite active in roads issues," John Primrose, a drama department technician, said. "She wasn't disruptive but she was a believer."

Lorry driver 'moved papergirl's bicycle' after hit and run death

By RICHARD DUCE

THE driver of a lorry that struck a girl on her paper round early yesterday is believed to have climbed down from his cab to move her bicycle before driving off. Amy Durling, 15, of Herne Bay, Kent, died from her injuries.

Witnesses have given police a description of the articulated lorry thought to have entered the country via Ramsgate. Two paramedics who saw the incident, Graham Palmer and a woman colleague, tried to tend to Amy but her injuries were so serious that she was certified dead on arrival at hospital.

Kent police said: "It is proving very difficult finding out exactly what happened because eye witnesses are so shocked. Witnesses have told us that the lorry was travelling



Amy: died from injuries

in convoy with another truck. Both are thought to have foreign registration plates.

"We have been in contact with the ports and local transport companies and given them a description of the vehicle," Police will issue leaflets to freight drivers at

Ramsgate and Dover today and will be stopping drivers at the scene to establish if they recall seeing anything at the time of the accident.

The lorry, and one following behind, both had yellow cabs and blue trailers. They are thought to have been travelling to London or the M25.

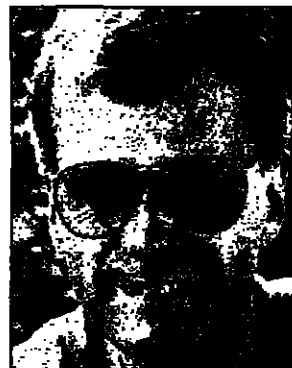
Kent ambulance service said the two paramedics had seen the accident at around 7.30am at the Greenhill roundabout on the A299. Amy, a pupil at Herne Bay High School and who lived near the scene of the incident, had collided with the lorry and skidded under its wheels.

Danny O'Donovan, her head teacher, said: "She was a very caring girl who loved working with children. Her most recent work placement had been at a nursery and I know her ambition was one

day to go into nursing." Amy's father Steven, 41, and mother Angela, 39, and her three sisters are being comforted by relatives.

Mr Durling, a British Gas engineer, has been told by police that the driver of the truck stopped and jumped out to pull away Amy's bicycle before speeding off. Mr Durling said he began to get worried when Amy had not returned home from her paper round. He contacted the newsagent, who also said that she had not come back.

Mr Durling drove off in search of his daughter. He said: "I came across the accident and could not see anything. Then I noticed some newspapers scattered around on the ground. I did not want to put two and two together. We adored her and can't believe she has gone."



Monaghan: rang wife

Fears rise for missing rail chief

By JONATHAN FRYNN

CONCERN was growing last night for the safety of one of Britain's most senior rail executives. Peter Monaghan, 48, who is responsible for running the 14 biggest stations on the network, disappeared from his home in Solihull, West Midlands, ten days ago.

He was last seen by his wife Glenna when he left for work in London at 7am on January 9. He rang her later that day to say he was going to a meeting and has not been seen since. Mrs Monaghan will appear on television this morning to appeal for information.

Police said his Rover was parked at Birmingham International station. No money had been withdrawn from his bank account.

Leading article, page 19

Bacharach and Como conquer techno generation

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

YOUNG people are turning their backs on techno, garage and house music in favour of tunes their grandparents loved. It has become cool to don evening dress, drink cocktails and dance to The Sandpipers' *Guantanamera* beneath a glittering mirror ball.

The nation's youth is switching to Radio 2 and flocking to nightclubs to hear records by Serge Gainsbourg, who with Jane Birkin sang the 1960s *Je T'Aime*, as an easy listening revival sweeps a generation.

Penny Fever of A&M Records, whose imminent compilation of Burt Bacharach hits, *The Look of Love*, is praised by *DI*, the club magazine, said: "It is a step away from the whole drug culture thing and dancing maniacally. People could be tired of going to clubs where it is just loud music. They can actually talk to each other."

"People go in gold lamé and evening dresses and things they have borrowed from their mums' wardrobes because you are going to look better dancing in a swirling dress."

Middle-of-the-road radio

stations are winning listeners fastest among the under-25s. Bill Morris, head of Radio 2 music department, said: "There is a group of younger people who are with great relish rediscovering Nat King Cole, Matt Monro, Frank Sinatra and the classic musicals."

The main stars of the revival are the handleaders Herb Alpert and Ray Conniff, Liza Minnelli, Paul Williams, the singer of *Just An Old Fashioned Love Song*, and B.J. Thomas, who sang *Rain Drops Keep Falling on My Head*.

Nightclubs leading the cult include World of Cheese in Bristol, Swinging Safari in north London, Indigo in the West End and the City CHEESE club in Chancery Lane, central London, which tomorrow night will feature Perry Como, Tom Jones and Olivia Newton John.

Disc jockeys can fill dance floors by playing advertising jingles and television theme songs massively amplified through nightclub speaker systems. *Match of the Day* is a particular crowd-pleaser.

Bacharach back, page 32

Transplant man given cancerous kidney

By RUSSELL JENKINS

HOSPITAL staff committed a series of blunders when they transplanted a cancerous kidney into a patient and then failed to rectify their mistake, a High Court judge said yesterday.

Doctors failed to warn Peter Sumner, 51, of Haywards Heath, West Sussex, early enough of the risk that the kidney was cancerous and should be removed.

Mr Sumner, who is claiming substantial damages from Brighton Health Authority, believed he was dying until the cancer went into unexpected remission.

Mr Justice Collins, who will announce the amount of damages next week, was highly critical of staff at Royal Sussex County Hospital.

He said: "They could not really have made greater blunders in the way they treated him once they realised that they had put in a potentially cancerous kidney, even if they meant well. They clearly treated him very badly. There is no question about that."

The health authority has conceded that it should have warned him of the cancer risk earlier and recommended removal of the organ.

Jobless typist loses his sex bias case

By PAUL WILKINSON

A HIGHLY skilled male typist lost his fight yesterday to prove sexual discrimination by a secretarial recruitment agency. He claimed the agency had refused to find him work because he was a man.

Alan Robinson, 30, a bachelor, who was supported by the Equal Opportunities Commission, claimed Office Angels failed

to contact him after an interview at its Leeds office, even though it had said qualified typists were "like gold dust".

He told the industrial tribunal in Leeds that he was also refused a typing test by the company because he was a man.

Mr Robinson, unemployed, from Quarndon, near Huddersfield, had typing qualifications that included a distinction in one exam. However, he failed to

include the qualifications on his application form. Office Angels staff told the tribunal that it was standard procedure not to give a typing test to applicants for a permanent post. The firm also insisted that Mr Robinson was sent three letters after his interview in July last year — two of them about a job at Midland Bank.

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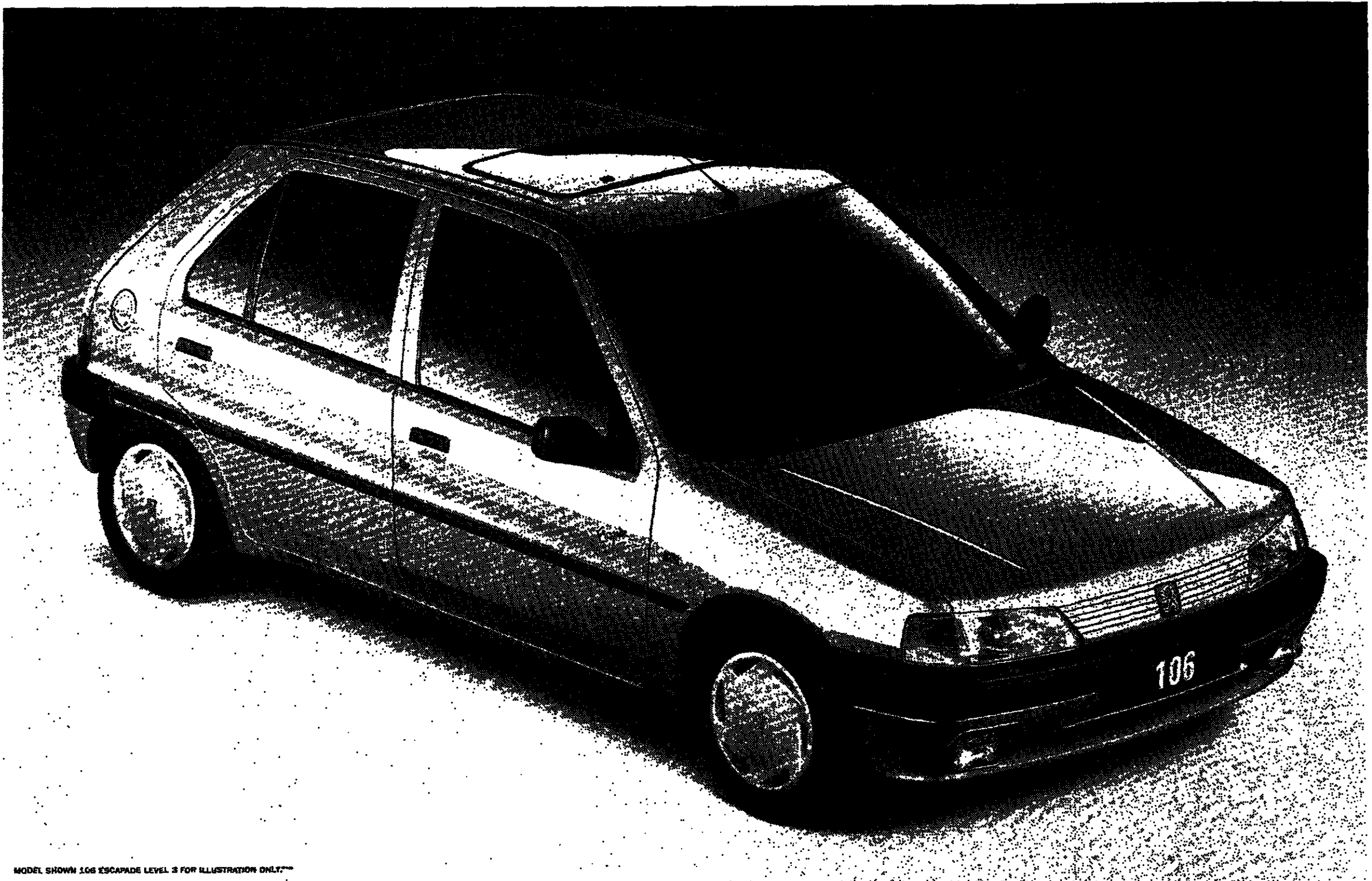
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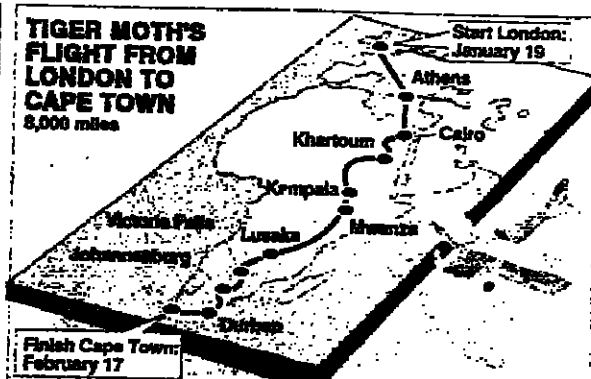
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MR. COBHAM'S FLIGHT.
SOUTH AFRICAN AVIATION PROSPECTS.
(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
CAPE TOWN, FEB. 18.



London fog ruins Tiger Moth's flying start on African jaunt

By ROBIN YOUNG

TWO pilots due to take off on an epic re-enactment of the first flight from London to South Africa were foiled yesterday by the British weather. While they should have been heading south to the sun, thick fog shrouded the airfield, completely obscuring the runway.

Tony Richards and David Belcliff still hope to get Skippy,

their 60-year-old Tiger Moth, airborne today or tomorrow in time to complete their 8,000-mile flight to Cape Town by February 17. That is the date on which Alan Cobham, who pioneered their route 70 years ago, touched down in 1926.

Cobham's purpose was to prove that flights between Britain and South Africa were a commercial possibility, and his success opened the way for mail flights and later

the Imperial Airways route to South Africa. The idea of re-creating the flight originated when Dirk Ackerman, managing director of South African airports, was taken for a flight in Skippy last year. The plane, kept at the headquarters of the Tiger Club at Headcorn, Kent, is usually employed on demonstration flights and flying lessons.

The two-seater Tiger Moth has a

range of little more than 200 miles, and will have to make 52 stops on its journey, even more than Cobham required when making his flight in a larger and more powerful DH60. When obliged to land where airfields no longer exist, the two pilots aim to camp overnight.

"Nobody has done a flight like this for 50 years," Mr Belcliff said yesterday. "Nowadays pilots fly over Africa, not through it. We will

be showing the flag in places that have not had an aviation visitor for years." Skippy will fly through Europe to Africa, following the Nile south and then through Kenya, and Zimbabwe to South Africa.

The principal alterations from Cobham's original route are a deviation skirting southern Sudan, where authorities warned that conflict on the border with Uganda

had to be avoided, and in South Africa, where Skippy will land at a series of airports undreamt of when Cobham flew.

"In Europe the challenge will be the weather and taking an old aircraft through modern facilities," said Mr Belcliff. 39, an airport consultant. "In Africa we will be landing at places without any regular aviation support, and in South Africa the problem will be

avoiding the cocktail parties." Mr Richards, 30, his co-pilot and manager of the Tiger Club, said the couple would take it in turns to pilot from the back seat. "The front-seat instrumentation has been taken out to make room for an extra fuel tank so the man in the front has the maps and navigates." They will report their progress by satellite telephone and fax to British schools and universities.

Duchess drops Concorde for first-class trip

By EMMA WILKINS

THE Duchess of York flew to America yesterday on a combined business and pleasure trip as concern grew over how she will meet debts of up to £3 million.

The Duchess, who will attend a fundraising dinner in Connecticut tomorrow for her charity Chances for Children, reacted swiftly to the message from Buckingham Palace that she can expect no financial support from the Queen.

Abandoning her plan to fly by Concorde (the fare to New York costs £5,000 return) the Duchess booked first-class seats, costing £4,250, on a subsonic British Airways flight to Washington.

The Duchess is taking her daughters, the Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie, on the trip. The royal party, including the children's nanny, is expected to stay at the Carlyle Hotel in New York, where suites cost between \$500 and \$1,500 (£1,100) a night.

A spokeswoman for the Duchess said that she was setting a precedent by not claiming back any expenses from the charity. The Duchess founded Chances for Children

just over a year ago as the American arm of her British charity Children in Crisis.

"The Duchess is entitled to claim expenses for herself but she will be meeting those costs, and those of the princesses and their nanny herself," the spokeswoman said.

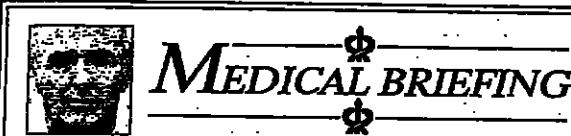
She declined to say how the Duchess proposed to pay back her debts, which are reported to be about £3 million. If the estimates are accurate, the Duchess's overdraft at Coutts bank is costing about £1,700 a day in interest charges.

The Duchess will attend a board meeting of her charity in New York on Monday. She would also be carrying out her own business, seeing friends, "and I suppose shopping", the spokeswoman said.

□ Sir David Steel, a Privy Counsellor and former leader of the Liberal Party, suggested yesterday that junior members of the Royal Family might lose their titles on divorce. Titles had to be earned rather than bestowed automatically, he said.

Philip Howard, page 18

Big spenders who need treatment



THERE is doubt about the exact amount of the Duchess of York's debts, but general agreement that she overspends to a degree that is unusual. The question is whether such behaviour is not only unusual but so abnormal as to be the symptom of a recognisable psychiatric condition.

Extravagant spending can be a symptom of mood disorder, either manic or hypomanic behaviour, or conversely of mild depression. About 20 years ago I was asked to see an emergency banker whose behaviour was making his colleagues concerned. When I asked the banker what his troubles were, he rushed me out to the car park and, laughing, flung open his boot and car doors to reveal a vehicle loaded to the roof with objets d'art and knick-knacks. Before seeing me he had visited Portobello Road in London and in a couple of hours had spent £10,000-plus, probably more than his annual pay.

The rest of his behaviour — his restlessness, euphoria, rapid and continuous speech and inflated self-esteem — made a diagnosis of mania obvious. The buying spree was merely additional evidence.

Full-blown mania such as this is easy to diagnose; more difficult are cases where the patient is hypomanic, a far more minor version of the same condition. The only clues may be overactivity, frequently described as bubbly, with over-grandiose

and over-expansive behaviour of which injudicious spending may be a part.

On the other hand, slightly depressed patients can cheer up themselves by undertaking what they may now call shopping therapy.

Spending tens of thousands on redecorating a rented house could be an example of behaviour by someone who is slightly hypomanic or minimally depressed, but it could also be a feature of what is called disorder of impulse control. A sufferer is unable to resist the temptation to carry out some antisocial or damaging act whether it be gambling, shopping or travelling, which is known as vagabond neurosis. Today not all vagabonds are poor; they can be rich and fly from resort to resort. These patients are restless and unhappy before they give way to their compulsion, and feel at ease once the objective has been achieved.

The Duchess of York's own opinion on her financial problems should not be overlooked. She has frequently said that she spends only to give her children what she considers a suitable upbringing. Having had a rather tumultuous early life herself and then having separated from her husband, she may be seeking to give her daughters the superficial security provided by servants, luxurious surroundings and frequent travel.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

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Antibiotic linked to arthritis and liver damage

Acne treatment blamed for deaths of two women

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

AN ACNE treatment taken by 200,000 teenagers can cause severe arthritis and damage the liver and lungs, doctors said yesterday. Minocycline, the most popular anti-acne drug in Britain, has caused two deaths and at least 34 other serious reactions. One patient needed a liver transplant.

More than 800,000 prescriptions for minocycline were issued last year, most of them to acne sufferers. The drug, an antibiotic, needs to be taken long term and most patients have repeat prescriptions every three months. It is more popular than other equally effective antibiotics because it is taken only once a day, but it is up to ten times more expensive.

The alarm was raised by doctors at Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham, who noted that a series of young women seeking arthritis treatment at the rheumatology clinic were also taking minocycline for acne. When they stopped taking the drug, the arthritis disappeared.

The observations triggered a research study led by Professor Paul Emery, now of Leeds University, the results of which are published in the *British Medical Journal*. Sev-

OUT, DAMNED SPOT

More than £90,000 a day is spent on soaps, creams and gels in the quest for a spot-free skin. Acne can affect the back and chest but it is the facial spots that cause most distress. They often occur in adolescence and can lead to unhappiness and self-loathing.

New treatments and growing recognition of the damage that untreated acne can do has improved the response from GPs, whose favoured remedy used to be fresh air and avoiding food such as chocolate and chips in favour of fruit. There is no evidence that diet affects acne but sex hormones do, which is why its peak occurrence is at puberty.

Almost all adolescents will have a few spots at some time, but 15 per cent suffer badly enough to require treatment. The cause is overproduction of sebum, a greasy substance that clogs the pores. Normally harmless bacteria on the skin's surface multiply within the plugged pore, producing large spots.

The most effective lotions available over the counter are those containing benzoyl peroxide, which lessens the greasiness. Antibiotics such as tetracycline work by reducing skin bacteria and inflammation. Improvement may not be apparent for several months. Doctors may also prescribe retinoic acid, a vitamin A derivative rubbed on the skin, or antimicrobial treatments.

men patients taking minocycline have been identified since 1990 with signs of systemic lupus erythematosus, an autoimmune disease which causes severe arthritis. Some of the patients also had liver inflammation. All recovered when the drug was stopped.

A further 11 cases of severe arthritis and 16 cases of severe hepatitis (inflammation of the liver) have been reported to

the Committee on Safety of Medicines, the Government's adviser. Three quarters of the victims were women and two died from liver failure.

Professor Emery said there was no reason to withdraw the drug but patients should be monitored for signs of reaction. "The problem can be spotted with blood tests. If patients on the drug develop unusual symptoms they

should consult their doctor and have a blood test. The symptoms may be as vague as a general malaise. It is up to the Committee on Safety of Medicines whether there should be a legal requirement for blood testing.

"No one need stop taking the drug," Professor Emery said. "The important thing is that people know about these extremely rare but serious side effects so that they can look out for them. All our patients improved with cessation of the drug."

An editorial in the *BMJ* says that minocycline has also been linked with lung damage and leaves blue-black deposits in the skin, nails and teeth of some patients. It recommends that patients try tetracycline or oxytetracycline first, which "will be cheaper and perhaps safer".

Dr Celia Moss, consultant dermatologist at Birmingham Children's Hospital and joint author of the editorial, said: "I have never found any need to prescribe minocycline." Severe acne may be treated with isotretinoin, a drug related to vitamin A. It is extremely effective but is prescribed only by hospitals because patients have to be monitored. The drug can cause liver damage and fetal abnormalities, so female patients must use contraception.



The surviving Venezuelan passion flower, which was grown to maturity by the botanist John Vanderplank

Passion flower escapes bulldozers

BY MICHAEL HORSNEY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH botanist has learnt to his delight and some alarm, that he is the possessor of the world's last specimen of the Venezuelan passion flower.

Developers have obliterated all traces of the flower, *Passiflora laurdesae*, in its only wild habitat on the edge of the mist-wreathed forests of the Lower Andes about 150 miles from Caracas.

Four years ago, anticipating the disaster, Miguel Molinari, a Venezuelan GP and amateur naturalist, sent seeds and cuttings of the flower to dozens of botanists in the United States

and Europe in the hope of ensuring its preservation. The only survivor is to be found in the distinctly untropical setting of Kingston Seymour, Avon, where John Vanderplank has successfully nurtured a single flower to maturity.

"This plant appears to be the only one of its kind in existence," said Mr Vanderplank, who runs the National Collection of *Passiflora*. "It was discovered in the wild only in the last five years and there are no others in botanical collections."

In Venezuela, Dr Molinari said yesterday: "I am so happy that John has grown this plant. Nobody here cares about plants, animals or the environ-

ment. A few people are interested in preserving nature but most people want to just keep on building."

Mr Vanderplank has taken five cuttings from the pinkish-mauve plant and hopes to fly to Venezuela with a young plant in the next 18 months. He also hopes to supply Kew and other botanical gardens with specimens. His collection, which he funds himself, includes 200 of the world's 400 known species of passion flower. Jim Keating, a scientist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, said: "We would be extremely happy to have a cutting. If John says this is the only one, then it is. He is the leading expert in his field."

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Newbury camps get benefits by post

BY TIM JONES

POSTMEN delivered unemployment benefit cheques yesterday to demonstrators in makeshift camps near the site of the planned Newbury bypass in Berkshire.

The Post Office said it was obliged to deliver once protesters had registered their camps and provided a post box. The Employment Department said it was bound by the same rules to send cheques to the addresses provided. The cheques will continue to be sent if those in the camps can satisfy the authorities they are actively seeking work.

Eric Forth, the Employment Minister, has said his officials may use any evidence, including newspaper and television pictures, to determine if protesters are making themselves available for work. He said some had already been refused benefits because they did not meet the criteria.

Yesterday, as the protest entered its tenth day, investigators working for the security firm filmed protesters trying to halt the felling of trees. They concentrated on those who had climbed trees. The film may be passed to the Employment Department.

At a news conference in Newbury, the heads of six environmental organisations, including Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund for Nature, said people should turn their attention away from the skirmishes between police and protesters and focus on the wider environmental issues and the damage the road would cause.

Bank staff suspended over leak on lottery

BY LEVIA LINTON

BARCLAYS Bank has suspended three of its staff after allegations that they leaked the name of a National Lottery winner to the press.

It is believed that they saw the £14,002,570 Camelot cheque being processed at the main Barclays clearing centre in Northampton and passed details of a Chinese man's identity to *The Sun*.

The staff, from the office at Brackmills, Northampton, were at home on full pay yesterday as Barclays started an investigation. If found at fault, they could be sacked.

Nick Cobban, a spokesman for Barclays, said: "We treat any breach of confidentiality extremely seriously."

Camelot's Royal Bank of Scotland cheque was made out to one of three winners who shared the lottery's £42 million double rollover jackpot two weeks ago. He had requested no publicity.

A spokesman for the National Lottery said: "Security and confidentiality are paramount. We expect all companies who come into contact with lottery winners to respect that."

John Carlisle, Tory MP for Luton North, said: "It is imperative that banks do not reveal the names of customers in any circumstances, not just National Lottery winners. Perhaps we should look at legislation to make breaches like this a criminal offence."

□ This week's estimated National Lottery rollover jackpot has been revised to £23 million, Camelot said last night.

Maxwell jury sets retirement record

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE Maxwell fraud trial has broken the record for the longest retirement by a jury. The seven women and five men have spent 11 nights in a secret hotel.

Yesterday was the third consecutive day on which the jury trying the sons of the late Robert Maxwell was forced to suspend its deliberations because of sickness. Two members were too ill to continue and none of the 12 was required to attend Chichester Rents, the Old Bailey annexe where the trial began on May 31 last year.

Health problems arose late on Monday when a doctor was called in to examine six jurors complaining of chest infections. On Tuesday, after 47 hours of deliberation, Lord Justice Phillips told the jury that the illnesses had been brought on by being cooped up in unhealthy conditions, ordered humidifiers for its room and suggested regular walks.

The jury will continue its deliberations today, the 13th

day of the trial, if its members are fit enough. Although they have not yet deliberated for a record time, the time they have spent in retirement is a record.

Previously, the longest Old Bailey case is thought to have been in April 1982 when the jury trying the murder of Terry May spent eight nights in an hotel, including the Easter weekend, and 56 hours 37 minutes deliberating.

Robert Maxwell's two youngest sons, Kevin, 36, and Ian, 39, and the former Maxwell aide Larry Trachtenberg, 42, deny conspiracy to defraud the pension fund by misusing £22 million worth of shares in the Israeli chemical company Teva.

Kevin Maxwell alone denies a similar charge of conspiring with his father to similarly misuse £100 million worth of shares in Sciex, another Israeli company. In both cases, brought by the Serious Fraud Office, the prosecution alleges the shares belong to the pensioners and not to the Maxwells.

هكذا من الأصل



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Standard features include a driver's airbag, anti-theft alarm with passive engine immobiliser, power-assisted steering and electronic sunroof.

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For further information contact your local dealer or telephone 0345 186 186.



ABOVE ALL, IT'S A ROVER

'Peter Pans' trapped in an age of criminal habits

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

YOUNG men are failing to grow up until their mid-twenties, prolonging their criminal careers, according to the Home Office. Research published yesterday says that there is a danger that young men who fail to find employment risk drifting into a type of perpetual adolescence.

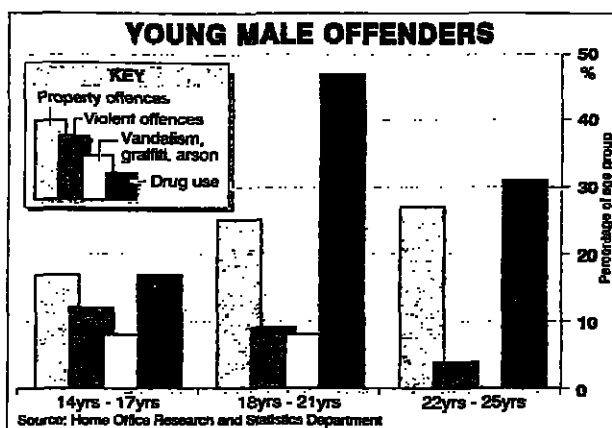
The first national study of young people and crime, involving 1,721 people aged 14 to 25, found that the maturing process did not influence men to stop offending and that there was little evidence that young male offenders developed a moral conscience.

It also confirmed the apparent link between family structure and crime: young people living with both natural par-

ents are less likely to offend than those living with one parent or in a step-family. *Young People and Crime* suggests parental training with special emphasis on preparation for young fatherhood, and encouragement to men to support young adult males in the community and provide responsible role models.

Although women offend less as they grow older, men do not and their participation in property crime actually increases. "The notion that young people 'grow out' of crime is an oversimplification, at least for young males," the study says.

"Many young people, even by their mid-twenties, have



still not completed the transition to a fully independent adult life." It adds that this development applies particularly to men, who lag behind young women in virtually every area of social development.

More than twice as many women as men aged 24 to 25

meet their own domestic responsibilities, including food shopping, washing up, cleaning their rooms, making beds and washing clothes. "Males are less likely than their female counterparts to achieve the independence, responsibility and maturity associated with adulthood by the age of 25. They tend, even by the age of 24 to 25, to be dependent rather than independent, to have an absence of responsibility for themselves and others and to remain with their family of origin rather than forming a family of their own."

The authors highlight the profound effects on the present generation of the delay in starting work. The study found that 22 per cent of men aged 22 to 25 were involved in

property crime compared with 3 per cent of women in the same age group.

Thirty-one per cent of men aged 22 to 25 were involved in general crime, excluding drug offences, compared with 10 per cent of women of the same age.

One in two males and one in three females admitted to committing an offence at some time, while in 1992, the year study was carried out, one in four males and one in eight females had committed a crime. Three per cent of offenders accounted for approximately 25 per cent of all offences.

Young women aged 14 to 17 are nearly as likely as males to be involved in offending, but as they mature their criminal activity declines sharply in

comparison to that of men. The study found that drug use among young people is widespread: every other male and every third female admitted having used drugs at some stage in the lives.

The peak age of offending by young people is 21 for males and 16 for females. The most common age for starting to offend is between 13 and 14.

The most common offences committed by young people are shoplifting and handling stolen goods and, for young males, fighting in a public place.

Young Asians are less likely to commit offences or use drugs than young whites and Afro-Caribbeans.

Young People and Crime (Home Office)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Absence of voice tape 'hindered inquiry'

The absence of a £10,000 cockpit voice recorder hindered and prolonged investigations into the Mull of Kintyre helicopter disaster, Anthony Cable, a senior crash investigator, told the inquiry at Paisley, Strathclyde. Earlier, Mr Cable said that a study of the Chinook's navigation system showed it was working perfectly at the time of the crash and was being used correctly. Ten high-ranking RUC officers, nine Army intelligence experts, six M15 experts and the four-man RAF crew died in the crash on June 2, 1994. The inquiry continues.

Mother saves girl

A mother was seriously injured after pushing her daughter out of the path of a car and taking the full force of the collision. Sharon Lively, 30, from Barwell, Leicestershire, was getting off a bus with her daughter Amie, 6, who ran into the road outside her school.

Charge dropped

An arson charge against the stepdaughter of Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons, has been withdrawn. Magistrates at Braintree, Essex, were told there was insufficient evidence to proceed against Verity Gilthorpe, 20, whose council flat in the town was damaged by fire.

Boy stole £4,500

A 12-year-old boy who snatched more than £4,500 from a filling station safe when his mother stopped to buy cigarettes was sent to secure accommodation for six months at Aberdeen Sheriff Court. He was found guilty at an earlier hearing of theft.

Rail deaths

Two men died and the neck of a third was broken when a train hit their car at 50mph as they apparently tried to drive round an automatic half-barrier on a level crossing at Bosham, West Sussex. The barrier was down and the red light was flashing when police arrived.

Victim named

The body of a young woman found burning by the side of a railway line has been identified as Deborah Wood, 20, of Holbeck, West Yorkshire. Police are interviewing two men who were recorded by security cameras at a petrol station filling a fuel can shortly before her death.

Phones rerouted

Emergency telephones on a 75-mile stretch of the M4 will work only intermittently for three weeks after a computer fault. Police have increased patrols to help at accidents and breakdowns between Swindon and Bridgwater. Engineers are replacing the old system.

Organic fare

What is claimed to be Britain's first wholly organic restaurant opens tonight. All the meat, vegetables, and dairy products at The Fisherman's Hut in Twickenham, west London are produced without the use of intensive methods, chemical pesticides and medicines, or additives.

Increasing anxiety over attacks 'must outweigh' concern about effects on health

Frontline police to use CS sprays in face of violence

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CS SPRAYS will be issued to 2,500 frontline police next month to protect them from attack after chief constables yesterday approved a six-month trial.

Training and written guidance will emphasise they should use the sprays only where they face violence justifying its use. Each officer will have to defend his decision as "reasonable force".

The sprays send out a jet of CS to a range of three metres which instantly give the attacker streaming eyes, sneezing and other unpleasant sensations. These will last for some minutes during which time police will be able to disarm and arrest the suspect. The French-made sprays cost about £3 each.

Yesterday, after the trials were ratified at a national meeting of chief constables, Jim Sharples, Chief Constable of Merseyside, and president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, said there was unanimous support among all 43 forces in England and Wales to arm officers with an incapacitant. The sprays would fill the gap between the baton and the general issue of guns. Sixteen forces will take part in the trial.

David Maclean, the Home Office Minister responsible for the police, said the best available equipment must be given to officers who could face attack. "The health effects of CS have been thoroughly researched to the level which would be required for a pharmaceutical drug. This has

HOW IT WORKS

CS is not a gas, but a white crystalline solid that is dissolved in a solvent. When sprayed from an aerosol, the solvent evaporates, leaving a fine dispersion of CS particles.

When inhaled, the particles affect the sensory receptors in the skin and eyes and the lining membranes of the nose, mouth, respiratory and gastrointestinal tract. The effects are immediate and unpleasant. As well as causing the eyes to water profusely and close involuntarily, it causes a burning sensation in the nose and throat, excessive nasal secretion and salivation, burning in the chest, coughing, retching and a stinging sensation on the skin.

CS was synthesised in 1928 by two British chemists, B. B. Carson and R. W. Staughton, and named after the initial letters of their surnames. It is about five times as powerful as the older tear gas.

established that CS presents no significant risk to human health," he said.

Yesterday Tony Burden, Chief Constable of Gwent and chairman of a chief constables' committee on police self-defence policy, said police accepted there were health concerns about the spray but

the need to protect officers from the increasing level of attack had to outweigh those anxieties. Officers in his force were already being attacked with CS sprays illegally brought into Britain.

Last year plans for the trials were halted after a London police inspector had his eyes temporarily damaged during a training session. Last week the officer told a police magazine that he felt the police should approach using the spray with caution.

Mr Burden said research showed that such incidents could be avoided by proper training and aftercare. He acknowledged that the solvent used in sprays could cause eye difficulties and skin blistering but copious use of water would ease the damage.

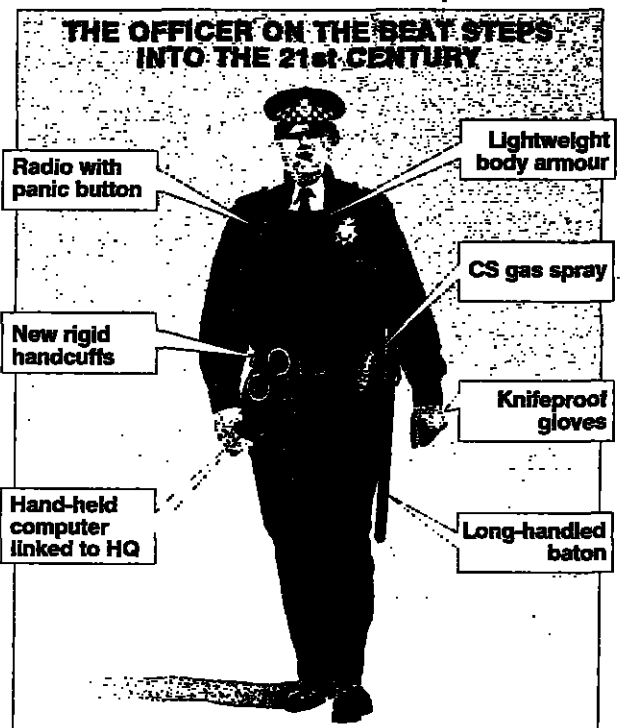
Mr Burden said every officer armed with the spray would carry a card with details of how to care for somebody sprayed with CS. Instructions would also go with anyone taken to hospital so that a casualty unit would have the best advice on treatment.

The chief constables' council endorsed plans to reorganise the regional crime squads into a national squad devoted to fighting organised and international crime. The National Criminal Intelligence Service will remain a separate entity.

The police will also campaign for changes in the Security Services Bill so that when M15 starts to work on organised crime it will be legally accountable and police will be in overall charge.



Jim Sharples, left, and Tony Burden, Chief Constables of Merseyside and Gwent respectively, with the spray



Fighting crime in tomorrow's world

POLITICIANS and senior police are seeking new clothing and equipment to combat the attacks that injure about 18,000 officers a year and have killed 11 since 1990 (Stewart Tandler writes).

In 1829 the first police had a top hat reinforced with leather, a rattle to raise the alarm and a short truncheon. Today some are already protected by bulletproof vests and knife-proof gloves, and in the 21st century they may be equipped with a hand-held computer.

Chief constables are studying new styles of clothing to replace the serge tunic, such as a blouson-style top. The traditional helmet was abandoned in Scotland long ago and England and Wales may adopt the peaked cap. Officers

wear bulletproof vests to patrol some areas of the North East. Scotland Yard is about to start trials of a lightweight bulletproof and knife-proof vest under clothing. There are gloves, resembling chainmail, which can grasp a blade without injury.

The traditional truncheon is being replaced by long batons, including a 26in telescopic version, developed from man-made materials. New handcuffs with a rigid bar between the cuffs allow officers to keep better control of prisoners. Radios with a panic button are also being issued.

Police are developing a radio network with hand-held computers to send messages and provide information on the spot.

Football makes big pitch for women fans

By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN football supporters are being encouraged to go to European championship games in England this summer with a series of advertisements in women's magazines.

The campaign, which is supported by Terry Venables, the England coach, has used three women football fans rather than models. Ailsa Park, 21, a distant relative of Sir Bobby and Jack Charlton, is pictured with the words: "How can I lie back and think of England when Venables has not finalised the squad?"

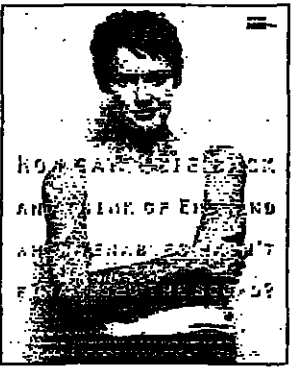
Ms Park, a Stockport County supporter, said: "I loved the idea of the campaign from the start. It positions women in a more serious way. There are too many of my friends who are put off going to watch a

match because they think it is more of a man's thing. The opportunity to challenge some of the myths was great."

Another advert says: "You'd rather spend next June going to see football than going on holiday? I don't believe it. He said." The third reads: "I fancy the Italians because in Ravenna and Zola you have a proven strike force working in front of a fluid 4-4-2 formation."

The publicity campaign is trying to build on the number of women who watch football. A survey at the start of the season found that women make up 12 per cent of the spectators at Premiership fixtures.

Organisers of the 16-nation European championship, the



Seeing is believing: one of the advertisements

biggest sports event in Britain since the 1966 World Cup, have already sold to the domestic market 440,000 of the 1.3 million seats, with only a handful of tickets left for England's games. The Foot-

ball Association wants to ensure that all the other matches in the 23-day tournament are sold out.

Helen Willis, the FA's marketing co-ordinator, and a Manchester United fan, said: "More women are going to football. All-seater stadiums make going to the ground more fun and exciting for women. Women who go to matches are no longer there because they have been dragged along by their boyfriends. They are there because they want to be. And it is women who bring the families along so, the more women we get to games, the more families we get."

David Davies, the FA's director of public affairs, said: "Much has been written about bringing families back to football. Families never went to

football, only fathers and sons. It is our job to attract families, so women have to be a target to broaden our audience."

The 31-game championship, which will be televised in 130 countries, is already assured of being more profitable than any sports event staged in Britain. The television rights have been sold to the European Broadcasting Union for £44 million and the primary sponsorship and television rights for the rest of the world for £24.4 million.

Supermarkets salute Burns Night

ALL the larger supermarkets, in England and Wales as well as Scotland, will be offering haggis this weekend, ready for Burns Night next Thursday. At Waitrose a 450g prepacked haggis (£1.99) is available throughout the year, but orders for 3lb (£5.95) and 5lb (£9.95) versions are being accepted at delicatessen counters until Monday. Safeway offers a Hall's 1lb haggis (normally £1.25) free with every bottle of Grant's whisky at £11.19. Other chains are offering their own-label versions or haggis manufactured by the major suppliers such as MacSween's of Edinburgh.

The "Great chieftain o' the puddin'-race", as Burns termed it, is a rich mixture of sheep's heart, liver, suet, oatmeal and onions, and should be served with "champion

WEEKEND SHOPPING

tatties" (mashed potatoes) and "bashed neeps" (mashed swede), ideally accompanied with a glass of malt whisky.

Promotions include: Asda: fresh lamb shoulder £3.05 a kg; new potatoes 98p for 2.5kg; oranges 19p each or 85p for seven; bloomer bread 49p for 800g; egg custard tarts 59p for three. Budgens: fresh chicken leg portions £1.69 a kg; chicken and mushroom pie 79p for 400g; cherry tomatoes 89p for 250g.

Co-op: fresh pork shoulder £2.69 a kg; natural low-fat fromage frais 93p for 500g; oranges 99p for seven. Harrods: pork pies £2 each; fresh cooked lobsters £9 each, £17 for two or £30 for four. Iceland: breaded haddock fil-

let £1.99 for 600g; boned kippers £1.49 for 600g; lemon chicken £2.20 for 450g; Matthews beef roast £3.19 for 567g; treacle tart £1.19 for 360g. Marks & Spencer: chicken breast fillets in breadcrumb £4.99 for 750g; reduced-fat cod with creamy vegetables £2.49 for 465g; reduced-fat pork fillet in mustard sauce £3.49 for 390g; baby new potatoes £1.49 for 750g. Morrison's: plaice fillet £7.47 a kg; whole mackerel £1.74; fresh mussels 99p a kg; fresh chicken, sizes 1-4, £1.30 a kg; Sunflower margarine 85p a kg.

Safeway: rump steak £6.99 a kg; half leg of lamb (knuckle/fillet) £5.89 a kg; chicken breast fillets with skin £1.49 a kg; British baked ham

59p a 4 lb; loose clementines 46p a lb; white bloomer bread 65p for 800g.

Sainsbury's: frozen large 1.8kg to 2kg chickens, £1.85 each; water-thin smoked ham 99p for 200g; small new potatoes 66p a kg; loose tomatoes 34p a lb; cornish pears 39p a lb. Somerfield: fresh British pork shoulder roast £2.18 a kg; Class A fresh chicken breast fillets with skin £3.34 for 620g; mixed peppers 89p pack.

Tesco: braising steak £3.89 a kg; leg of pork bone in £2.89 a kg; half leg of lamb £5.19 a kg; smoked haddock fillet £2.47 a lb; salmon chops £3.45 a lb. Waitrose: chicken casserole with leeks £3.49 for 900g; Romano potatoes £1.39 for 2.5kg; sweet potatoes 65p a lb; avocado pears 25p each; plum tomatoes 69p a lb.

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NatWest Business Accounts Interest Rates

National Westminster Bank announces the following interest rates, effective from 19 January 1996:

Solicitors' Reserve Account		
Current Interest (per annum)	Balance	Gross Compounded Annual Rate ¹
4.250%	Instant Access - No minimum deposit/withdrawal	4.32%
4.125%	£100,000 - £249,999	4.19%
3.750%	£25,000 - £99,999	3.80%
3.125%	£2,000 - £24,999	3.16%
2.250%	£500 - £1,999	2.27%
1.250%	£0 - £499	1.26%

¹ Without appropriate Basic Rate Tax will be deducted from interest credited or paid (which may be reduced by resident non-taxpayers). Subject to the required registration form, interest will be paid gross.
² Gross Compounded Annual Rate is the true annual return on your savings if the interest payments are retained in the account.

National Westminster Bank Plc
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مكتبة من الأصل

FRIDAY JANUARY 19 1996

NEWS IN BRIEF

Absence of voice tape 'hindered inquiry'

The absence of a little cockpit voice recorder in a crashed and prolonged investigation into the crash of a helicopter on the M11 at the village of Cable, a south-west London, told a court yesterday. The court heard that the absence of the recorder, which would have provided a clear picture of what happened at the time of the crash, had hindered the inquiry. The court heard that the helicopter was carrying a number of people and that the crash had resulted in the death of one of them. The court also heard that the helicopter was carrying a number of people and that the crash had resulted in the death of one of them. The court also heard that the helicopter was carrying a number of people and that the crash had resulted in the death of one of them.

Mother saves girl

A mother was seriously injured after pushing her daughter out of the path of a car and taking the full force of the impact. Sharon Lee, 42, from Barrow-in-Furness, was hit by a car while walking with her daughter, Amy, 10, across the road. The car was driven by a 19-year-old man who was charged with dangerous driving. The mother was taken to hospital with serious injuries. The girl was not hurt.

Charge dropped

An assault charge against a 19-year-old man has been dropped. The man, who was charged with assaulting a woman, was released on bail. The charge was dropped because the woman did not want to proceed with the case. The man was charged with assaulting the woman on the street. The woman was taken to hospital with injuries. The man was charged with assaulting the woman on the street. The woman was taken to hospital with injuries. The man was charged with assaulting the woman on the street. The woman was taken to hospital with injuries.

Boy stole £4,500

A 15-year-old boy has been charged with stealing £4,500 from a shop. The boy, who is from the area, was charged with stealing a number of items from the shop. The items included a number of electronic items and clothing. The boy was charged with stealing the items from the shop. The items included a number of electronic items and clothing. The boy was charged with stealing the items from the shop. The items included a number of electronic items and clothing.

Rail deaths

Two people were killed and a number of others injured in a rail accident. The accident occurred on a busy rail line. The train was carrying a number of passengers. The train was hit by a car. The car was driven by a 19-year-old man who was charged with dangerous driving. The man was charged with dangerous driving. The man was charged with dangerous driving. The man was charged with dangerous driving.

Victim named

The name of the victim in the rail accident has been named. The victim was a 35-year-old woman. She was killed in the accident. The woman was traveling on the train. The train was hit by a car. The car was driven by a 19-year-old man who was charged with dangerous driving. The man was charged with dangerous driving. The man was charged with dangerous driving. The man was charged with dangerous driving.

Phones rerouted

Emergency services have rerouted phone calls to a new number. The new number is 999. The old number was 112. The new number is 999. The old number was 112. The new number is 999. The old number was 112. The new number is 999. The old number was 112.

Organic fare

Organic food is becoming more popular. The price of organic food is rising. The price of organic food is rising. The price of organic food is rising. The price of organic food is rising. The price of organic food is rising. The price of organic food is rising. The price of organic food is rising. The price of organic food is rising.

West
accounts
Rates

Account

Bank of
Cyprus

It's a big claim to make.

But it's true.

A fact supported by data from PHH Vehicle Management Services, a very accurate guide which tells us what people are really paying for their petrol.

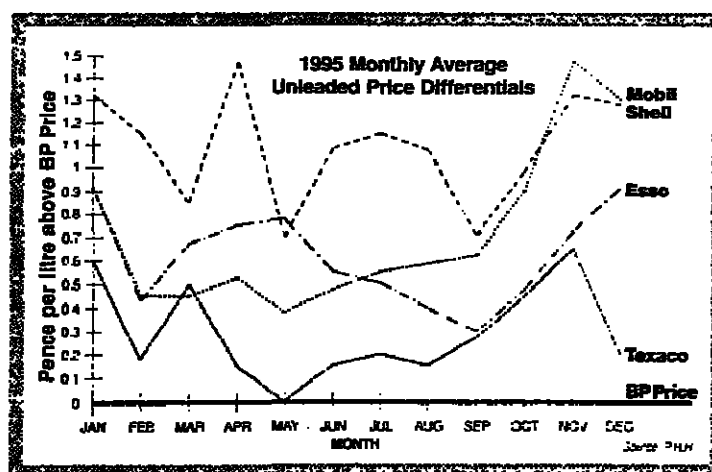
FACT: BP WAS THE FIRST MAJOR BRAND TO LOWER ITS PRICES.

When some of the smaller brands began to cut their prices, we

were the first to respond. We didn't want our customers to have to sacrifice quality to find value for money.

FACT: WE DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO ENSURE THAT BP'S PRICES ARE COMPETITIVE.

Every BP station keeps an eye on local prices. We aim to be amongst the lowest prices around.



As the graph shows, over the last twelve months, all over the country,

BP has, on average, been the cheapest of the majors.

FACT: BP HAS A NATIONAL NETWORK OF 1400 STATIONS.

Right by the roadside, just where you need them.

So you don't have to drive round a busy shopping centre and queue up just to fill your car.

FACT: WE LISTEN TO OUR CUSTOMERS.

We know what matters to you today: fuel quality, service, convenience, and of course price.

Looking at all the facts, and looking at what the others really offer...

it's hardly worth going out of your way for, is it?

BP. WE FOCUS ON PRICE.



Major's aides invoke store chief's support

Tories pour scorn on Blair's bid to champion business

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TORY officials challenged Tony Blair's attempts last night to champion Marks & Spencer in his crusade on behalf of a "stakeholder economy" in which everyone can take part.

The Labour leader named the store chain as an example of his big idea in action. But the gloss was taken off his remarks when it was pointed out that Sir Richard Greenbury, the company's chairman, had spoken out in support of the Prime Minister's approach to business.

Mr Blair told a public meeting in Derby: "Business leaders recognise that what new Labour is saving fits exactly with current thinking in industry. Some of our great companies call themselves stakeholder firms — John Lewis, Rover, Marks & Spencer, BP."

But Central Office aides cited a letter written by Sir Richard and other business chiefs to a national newspaper on January 1. It said that the Prime Minister's policies had brought benefits to business and industry and described Britain as a "great industrial

force". The letter added: "Despite his detractors, John Major has won the respect of the world in his straightforward determination to put our nation first. We businessmen who, with others, are leading the drive to keep Britain the enterprise centre of Europe agree with the policies of John Major."

In his speech Mr Blair hit back at the Tory attempt to portray his "big idea" as a smokescreen for a return to the days of trade union power. "The stakeholder economy is the key to preparing our people and business for vast economic and technological change," he said. "It is not about giving power to corporations or unions or interest groups. It is about giving power to you, the individual."

"It is about giving you the chances that help you to get on and so help Britain to get on too: a job, a skill, a home, an opportunity — a stake in the success that we all want for Britain."

"We will fight for that stake. Working with you, in partnership. The Tories fight only for the privileged few. We stand

for the majority, the many." Mr Blair said that business experts advised that competitiveness and success came from a stakeholder approach. "The great lesson they draw from their research is that companies that treat their workers as partners are the ones that succeed. The same goes for a country."

Mr Blair's speech came against a barrage of attacks from senior Tories led by the Prime Minister in the Commons. Mr Major said that the only stakeholders under Labour would be union chiefs such as John Monks, general secretary of the TUC, and John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB union.

The Prime Minister will return to this theme today in a speech to the Institute of Directors in which he will extol his vision of Britain as the "enterprise centre of Europe" — his slogan endorsed by the Marks & Spencer boss.

Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, joined the fray last night by accusing Labour of planning to raid the £500 billion tied up in occupational



and private pension funds. He cited Mr Blair's interest in Singapore's central provident fund — under which the Government manages compulsory contributions by workers and their employers — as evidence that Mr Blair wanted to get his hands on the

£60 billion income from pension funds. "Labour argue that the City is a poor investor of pension funds, so the State and the social partners should redirect funds to strengthen the economy and so improve returns for pensioners. The record of the

Singapore CPF explodes this thesis. Since 1980, the Singapore scheme has yielded just 2 per cent more than inflation. By contrast the portfolios of UK pension schemes over a similar period have yielded 9.6 per cent more than inflation."

Rumours reveal dismal state of party's morale

RIDDOLL ON POLITICS

John Major will almost certainly lead the Tories into the next election. Any other option would be even more suicidal than the party's behaviour over the past three years. But that is almost beside the point. The latest rumours about backbench plotting against Mr Major matter not because he is likely to be ousted but because of what they reveal about the state of the Tory party.

The morale of Tory MPs is dire. Hardly anyone talks about victory. The only question is the scale of defeat. That is not new. What is depressing MPs is that the new year has arrived and there is barely a glimmer of an improvement. Mr Major's leadership coup, the party conference, the tax-cutting Budget, interest rate cuts: all were supposed to have marked a new beginning. But the party's troubles continue: Emma Nicholson's defection, the fuss over Baroness Thatcher's speech, no pick-up in the Tories' poll ratings, etc.

The predominant reaction is fatalistic: we are going to lose and there is not much we can do about it. So the only thing is to fight the good fight, hope that Labour trips up, and pray for rising living standards and another round of tax cuts in November to narrow the gap. There is, of course, a world of difference for individual MPs between losing by a whisker and a landslide, as Labour can readily testify after ending up with only 209 MPs in 1993.

The question is rather whether anything, or anyone, can affect the outcome. Some on the ideological Right saw last summer's contest as the last chance in this Parliament to make a change. They would welcome a period in opposition to regroup, and would be content for Mr Major to take the blame for defeat, allowing their unblemished champion to ride to the rescue.

However, hopes of a miracle are still entertained by some traditional Tories on the centre-right who used to be regarded as the squires and are now widely, if not quite accurately, described as grandees since few are grand either in estates or in style.

They are less relaxed by the prospect of defeat and are looking round for some dramatic leadership initiative.

There are three obvious snags: first, any replacement would be messy; second, there is no agreed successor; and, third, Mr Major is not about to resign. The idea that Mr Major can be persuaded to step down after dreadful Tory results in the May local elections and then succeed smoothly, and without a contest, is nonsense. Any change would be far from bloodless and could do fatal damage to the Tories so near an election.

Moreover, some MPs who have again been muttering about the leadership were among those most hostile last summer to Michael Heseltine. Yet he is the only possible short-term successor to Mr Major in the type of palace revolution now being canvassed. So the plotters would get the man they opposed then. Mr Heseltine has been scrupulously loyal to Major and, anyway, now looks even more the elder statesman than the hungry politician eager for the premiership.

Mr Major is also a determined fighter and an adept party manager — as shown, for example, when he tied in Mr Heseltine before he called the leadership contest. He displayed these skills again yesterday when he pushed through the Cabinet, at the last minute, a proposal to publish a White Paper on the inter-governmental conference, despite Foreign Office statements to the contrary even on Wednesday. This looks more a symbol than a shift of substance to nail down the Government's negotiating position as the Tory sceptics have been seeking. But they saw it as a conciliatory gesture. Mr Major should survive, though there must be a slim chance that he may give up in despair at his party.

PETER RIDDOLL

Daylight reformers hint at a deal

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

SUPPORTERS of the campaign to scrap Greenwich Mean Time may offer their opponents a compromise before today's vote in the Commons.

They suggest that Britain could have an extra hour of evening light during a five-year trial. The change would become permanent only if expected benefits, such as fewer road accidents, were realised. The Tory MP John Butterfill, who is sponsoring the British Time (Extra Daylight) Bill, said that a compromise might be offered if it was seen as the only way pushing the change through.

But Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, is determined to stifle the backbench Bill. "Until this thing is dead and buried, I am not going to stop kicking it," he said. Mr Forsyth is adamant that the Bill, which would mean 11am winter dawns in Shetland, will benefit only southern workers with later dusks and international businesses, which would be on the same time as the rest of Europe. He has told colleagues that for Scottish Tories it would be a greater electoral disaster than the poll tax.

The Bill has the backing of more than 200 southern MPs, 150 peers, almost 75 per cent of CBI members, several Scottish Labour MPs and, according to a recent poll, 72 per cent of British voters.

Mr Forsyth has told the government payroll, about 130 Tory MPs, to abstain although 40 have pledged their support and the Home Office, the Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry have also given their tacit approval.

Mr Butterfill, MP for Bournemouth West, has had 1,000 letters of support from Scotland. He said: "I hope he will have this on his conscience if more Scottish children and pensioners are killed because of his response."

Commons watchdog closes loophole

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Commons watchdog on standards closed a loophole in the rules on MPs' business interests yesterday when he cleared a former Tory minister of wrongdoing.

Sir Gordon Downey, making his first report, decided that Patrick Nicholls had not been in breach of the rules when he tabled questions last year for a company that had offered to make him a shareholder. But he said that under the new rules MPs would not be allowed to do unpaid parliamentary work for clients in expectation of securing reward "related to future services".

Mr Nicholls, a former Tory party vice-chairman, tabled more than 20 questions in March last year on behalf of World Water Supplies. Two weeks later he arranged to accept a 5 per cent shareholding to take effect after a year. He said that the shareholding related to future activities and that he had acted within the rules because he would never be paid for tabling the questions.

Under rules introduced in November, MPs are barred from paid advocacy, such as making speeches, tabling questions or leading delegations on behalf of an outside client. Work carried out in expectation of a reward is referred to as the new rules, and Sir Gordon emphasised that a promise of future opportunities to earn would be seen in the same light.

Mr Nicholls said that he was entirely blameless and that there had never been any doubt that he would be cleared. He accused the Labour leader, Tony Blair, and his deputy, John Prescott, of trying to wreck his career by bringing the complaint against him.

Mr Prescott said that Mr Nicholls had been "technically cleared but morally condemned".

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to Home Office ministers and the Prime Minister were followed by a debate on the Army. In the Lords: debate on the future of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, including allegations on the printing

and publishing needs of Parliament. TODAY in the Commons: the British Time (Extra Daylight) Bill, operated by John Butterfill (C, Bournemouth West); Dogs (Fouling of Land) Bill; Western European Time Bill. The House of Lords is not sitting.

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Arafat aides fear assassination as campaign ends

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERICHO

A Palestinian hurls a snowball near an election poster in Ramallah after parts of Israel and the West Bank suffered a rare fall yesterday. Tel Aviv had floods

Mr Arafat is expected to win at least 80 per cent of the vote for the presidency. His opponent is Samiha Khalil, 72, an Arab woman whose meetings have often attracted only a handful of people.

Juppé aid for cities unveiled

By SUSAN BELL

Although Martine Aubry, the former Socialist Employment Minister, conceded that the Gaullist plan contained "some good ideas", she said it did not meet the needs of the suburbs. She said: "We are a long way from a Marshall Plan ... the Government obviously has not realised the enormity and the gravity of the situation."

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Budget becomes key battleground for US election

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE budget impasse in Washington, destroying the reputation of the US Government among its people, yesterday emerged as the central issue for the year in which America chooses its new President.

After a planned week-long gap in negotiation, Republican leaders have cancelled talks with Democratic opponents until President Clinton is prepared to produce a balanced budget proposal acceptable to Capitol Hill.

The White House, accusing congressional leaders of widening demands, is uncertain privately that either side can engineer a deal this year, and has left the rest of Washington, and indeed America, convinced the budget will become the main battleground of November's presidential election.

No longer merely a question of spending figures for contested policies over healthcare programmes such as Medicare and Medicaid, as the White House would prefer, the budget has become a fight for the country's leadership.

Mr Clinton, attempting to make political capital from the most recent impasse, said

yesterday both sides had already agreed \$600 billion (£392 billion) in savings, easily enough to balance the budget.

Listing policy differences over Medicare, Medicaid, education and the environment — areas of most appeal to middle-class America — Mr Clinton said he "had gone the extra mile in good faith" to achieve a deal.

"It is wrong for us to defer this because of disagreements which are not necessary for balancing the budget and bringing modest tax cuts," he said. "I would say to those Republicans in Congress that my door is open, it will stay open. I am committed to work with them until the job is done."

Robert Dole, the Senate majority leader, immediately dismissed Mr Clinton's move as a "very short one" and said the President's budget was a "spend now, save later programme". He added: "What the American people do not want is for us to go to the White House and make a bad deal, we'll take it to the voters before we do that. We are prepared to meet on Sunday, but only if there is something

to meet about." Despite the impasse, both sides publicly are clinging to the notion of a budget deal for fear of unsettling the financial markets in Wall Street, and said there may be further "telephone" conversations.

The Republicans have made it clear they will not return to the table until the White House offers new proposals to bridge the policy gap. "The budget debate is not an exercise in arithmetic; it requires critical policy decisions," Mr Dole, Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, and Dick Armey, the House majority leader, wrote to Mr Clinton.

Both sides have yet to establish how they will avert a third partial government shutdown when the present temporary spending measure, keeping various departments open, expires a week today.

A further confrontation looms over the Republican refusal to lift the \$4.9 trillion federal debt ceiling and allow the Treasury to borrow to finance its spending. Robert Rubin, the Treasury Secretary, has said the Administration will run out of money by mid-February unless a middle



Robert Dole and Newt Gingrich, the Republican leaders, at a Capitol Hill news conference on tax reform plans

ground can be found. With few signs of movement, the heated debate is likely to provide a partisan setting for Mr Clinton's State of the Union message to Congress next Tuesday. It has compli-

cated his own attempts to create a budget proposal for the 1997 fiscal year, due early next month.

In walking out of the talks, the Republicans may pay a price. Some Republicans are concerned that whether there is a deal or not, Mr Clinton can argue during the poll campaign that, after 12 years of rising deficits, he has cut them in half with barely a single Republican vote. His

plan has also been accepted by the Republican-controlled Congressional Budget Office, and the White House is talking of labelling the right-wing majority on Capitol Hill as a "do nothing" Congress.

Plane kills shoppers in Indonesia

Jakarta: Fifteen people, including at least two children, were killed when a government-owned trainer plane crashed into a clothing shop in Indonesia's scenic mountain city of Bandung yesterday, state-run TVRI television reported.

Four of those who died were aboard the twin-propeller Beechcraft Baron, which exploded when it crashed soon after take-off in a city street crowded with vendors, shoppers and pedestrians. Four shops, motorcycles and pedestrians were destroyed. An official at Bandung's Husein Sastranegara airport said the plane had apparently developed engine trouble. (Reuters)

Son of Abacha dies in air crash

Lagos: The son of Nigeria's military ruler, General Sani Abacha, and 13 others were killed when their private jet crashed in Kano. Ibrahim Sani Abacha, 34, was travelling on Wednesday night with presidential security guards who were going to the northern city as an advance party before a visit by the general. The pilot had reported engine problems. An unknown group, the United Front for Nigeria's Liberation, yesterday claimed responsibility for the crash. (AP, Reuters)

Editor walks out on Kennedy

New York: John F. Kennedy Jr., son of the former President, has hit trouble with his magazine, *George*, on the eve of issue number three, editor Eric Etheridge walked out citing "editorial differences" with Mr Kennedy (Quentin Letts writes). Mr Kennedy is expected to become editor — *George* has helped him to portray himself as a highbrow man of influence rather than the feckless son of an assassinated President.

Lesotho throne given to son

Maseru, Lesotho: King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho's eldest son will succeed him after the monarch's death in a car crash on Monday, the college of chiefs decided. Crown Prince David Mphahlele Bereng Seiso, 32, served as King Letsie III for four years until abdicating in 1994 in favour of his exiled father. No coronation date has been set. (AP)

Cabinet snub to Islamic Turks

Ankara: Mesut Yilmaz, Turkey's Motherland Party leader, has rejected an offer by the Islamic Welfare Party, which came first in last month's election, to form a coalition. This paves the way for him to set up a government with Tansu Ciller, the caretaker Prime Minister. (Reuters)

Pizza to go

Calgary: Rabbi Allen Saks so fancied a kosher pizza that he ordered 50 slices of it from a New York restaurant, 2,485 miles away. It was delivered to Canada within 24 hours, at a cost of £200. (Reuters)

Blind sheikh jailed for life over American 'jihad'

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A BLIND Muslim fundamentalist cleric, spitting angry words about "infidel America", yesterday began a life sentence in prison. Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman was given the maximum penalty for leading a "jihad" against the United States.

The trial and sentencing of Abdel-Rahman and nine followers sent a shiver down Manhattan's spine. Islamic fundamentalism, for many Americans once a problem in foreign

lands, was uncomfortably close to home. New York was on security alert yesterday, anticipating trouble from the Egyptian-born cleric's supporters.

Police, who had deployed armoured vehicles and sniffer dogs outside the court, urged people to remain vigilant and report suspicious packages. A New York police chief directive asked private security firms to assist the security operation. New York airports were on alert level three — the highest is four — and the port authority and prominent public buildings were given security advice. Manhattan's federal

building officials, mindful of last year's Oklahoma City bombing, increased their vigilance.

Abdel-Rahman, 57, prematurely elderly and in Middle Eastern clothes, was defiant before being sentenced. The defendants were permitted to address the court for 30 minutes, or an hour if using an interpreter. Abdel-Rahman, wielding a thick pile of Braille papers, spoke for more than 90 minutes, attacking America for "waging a war against Islam".

His co-conspirators, found guilty of plotting to bomb the United Nations,

the FBI, and other Manhattan landmarks, received sentences of 25 years to life. They were also linked to a plan to kill President Mubarak of Egypt.

The men apparently hoped their activities would force Washington to alter its Middle East policies. □ Cairo: Faten, 38, the younger of Abdel-Rahman's two wives, said she, Aisha, 49, and their eight children had received the news calmly. "There has been no proof to incriminate him, but Sheikh Omar is one of the great figureheads of Islam and this is a war against Islam." (Reuters)

Clintons accused of hiding documents

BY TOM RHODES

REPUBLICANS yesterday accused the Clintons of hiding sensitive Whitewater documents after an aide testified that she had accidentally found Hillary Clinton's law firm records in the guest quarters of the White House.

Carolyn Huber, who had worked for the Rose Law Firm in Arkansas before joining the White House, told the Senate Whitewater committee yesterday that she had been in the "book room" every two or three days.

In August, she discovered the records. "They appeared there, I don't think I would have missed them," said Ms Huber, who was asked whether she believed somebody had left them deliberately. "Someone did," she said. Access to that part of the White House, next to the First Lady's office, was restricted to the President and Mrs Clinton, their house guests and a handful of staff.

Mrs Clinton came under attack from Republicans who suggested that the Clintons may have hidden the documents despite subpoenas re-

quiring they divulge all information relating to the failed land deal in Arkansas.

Calling for both Clintons to be brought before the committee, Senator Lauch Faircloth, of North Carolina, said Congress would "very likely have a very serious case of obstruction of justice".

The White House had maintained that it could not find the documents, which describe Mrs Clinton's legal work at the Rose Law Firm for Madison Guaranty, the failed bank at the centre of the scandal.

Ms Huber placed the memorandums in a box and forgot them until she reopened the box this month. She then recognised their importance.

In a further sign of Mrs Clinton's diminishing popularity, she was accused of not signing her name during a promotional tour for her book about children.

Howard Stern, the radio talk show host, said she had insulted her fans by using an automatic signature machine to autograph *It Takes a Village*.

TV host Donahue bows out

New York: Phil Donahue, one of America's leading talk show hosts, has retired from television after 30 years (Quentin Letts writes). His decision, partly explained by falling audience figures, comes after political attacks on daytime TV standards by leading Republicans.

Mr Donahue, 60, was the "grandfather" of the audience-participation chat show, a genre which in recent months has stooped to sensationalistic and vulgar topics of debate. Empower America, a right-wing pressure group, campaigned for an end to the daytime discussion of teenage sex, family strife and community violence and urged advertisers to withdraw financial support from some programmes.

Mr Donahue's show was mild by comparison with some of its imitators, but he may have paid the price for pioneering a form of programme which has become so controversial.

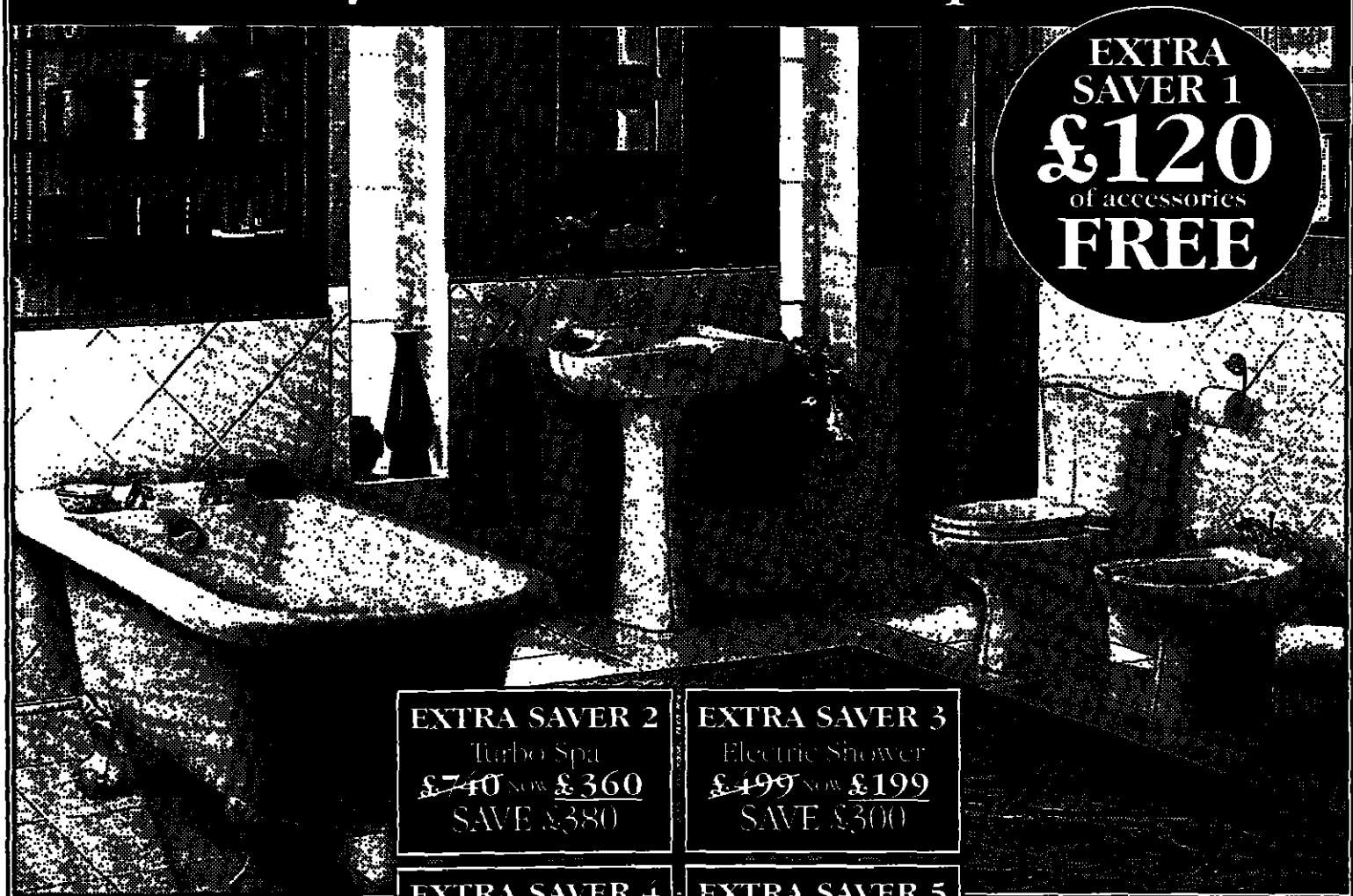
Mr Donahue was not available for comment, but was said to be "very emotional" about the end of his show.

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DAY JANUARY 19 1996

WORLD SUMMARY

Plane kills shoppers in Indonesia

Jakarta (UPI) - A plane carrying 100 passengers and 10 crew members crashed into a residential area in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Friday, killing 10 people and injuring 15 others.

The plane, a Boeing 737-400, was en route from Jakarta to Surabaya when it crashed into a residential area in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Friday.

The crash occurred at about 10:30 a.m. local time. The plane was carrying 100 passengers and 10 crew members.

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ARTS 31-33



Pedro Almodóvar talks to Julia Llewellyn Smith

EDUCATION 35



Maths teaching in Britain doesn't add up

SPORT 37-44



Should Atherton stand aside for World Cup?

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 42, 43

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY JANUARY 19 1996

Eurofighter gets go-ahead after argument ends

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE programme to build 230 Eurofighter aircraft for the Royal Air Force is set to begin this summer after Britain and Germany settled a year-long wrangle over the manufacturing work share.

The high-agility aircraft, which is expected to outperform every fighter in the world except the American F22 now under development, is expected to enter squadron service in 2002, replacing the RAF's air

defence Tornados. British industry, including most companies involved in aerospace, will earn about £10 billion - some £1 billion more than expected - from work on the aircraft. The biggest beneficiary will be British Aerospace, which will build the planes at its Warton plant in Lancashire. Rolls-Royce is likely to emerge as lead-partner in the four-nation engine programme.

The breakthrough came after Volke Ruhe, the German Defence Minister, announced that Germany would buy an additional 40 aircraft.

Originally Britain and Germany were each to buy 250 aircraft in exchange for a one-third share of the programme.

The remaining third was to be split between Italy, which wants 187 planes, and Spain, which plans to buy 87.

After the Berlin Wall collapsed, Germany decided to buy just 140 Eurofighters in order to reduce defence spending. German ministers insisted that Germany retain its 33 per cent work share to help the ailing German aerospace industry.

Under the terms of the contract, it would be properly entitled to less than a quarter of the programme. Britain refused to allow the Germans so much of the work, arguing that it would result in British jobs going abroad and increase the costs of the planes.

During a meeting in London yesterday, James Arbuthnot, Britain's Defence Procurement Minister, and Jörg Schönbohm, his German counterpart, agreed that the increase in German purchases could form the basis for an agreement.

Under an outline deal, Britain's share of the £30 billion production work will rise to 37 per cent or 38 per cent, while Germany's will shrink to 30 per cent. The remainder will go to the other partners, as planned. Officials have been asked to iron out the details so that a final agreement can be signed in mid-summer.

In a joint statement, Mr Arbuthnot and Herr Schönbohm said they agreed that this resolved the issues of production work share subject to the settlement of some details by

officials of the four nations, and will provide a firm basis for planning by industry.

A pre-production prototype Eurofighter was displayed at the Paris Air Show last June, but the aircraft has yet to be put through its paces in front of a crowd.

With a speed of more than 1,500 miles an hour and a cost less than half that of the F22, both BAE and the Ministry of Defence hope it will find export sales in sophisticated defence markets such as Saudi Arabia.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3748.7	(-44.5)
Yield	3.81%	
FT-SE All Share	1023.71	(-18.1)
Nikkei	20720.04	(-506.25)
New York		
Dow Jones	5084.97	(+18.07)
S&P Composite	695.27	(-1.10)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.75%	(6.0%)
Long Bond	112.00	(111.7)
Yield	5.95%	(6.01%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	6.75%	(6.75%)
Left long gilt		
future (Mar)	112.25	(111.7)

STERLING

New York	1.5235	(1.5235)
London	1.5228	(1.5245)
DM	2.2294	(2.2325)
FF	7.6560	(7.6280)
SP	1.8896	(1.8958)
Yen	160.70	(160.75)
S Index	85.0	(85.2)

DOLLAR

London	1.4580	(1.4705)
DM	5.0219	(5.0235)
SP	1.1851	(1.1887)
Yen	105.35	(105.25)
S Index	85.4	(85.4)

Tokyo close Yen 105.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	\$16.75	(\$16.60)
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GOLD

London close	\$397.65	(\$397.45)
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* denotes midday trading price

Caradon inquiry launched by DTI

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE DTI has launched an insider trading investigation into dealings in the shares of Caradon, the building materials company, before the announcement of its interim results last September.

The move follows an inquiry by the Stock Exchange into the unusually heavy trading and sharp fall in price of Caradon shares on September 8. The Exchange has now passed on its findings to the DTI.

The Stock Exchange investigation is understood to have centred on conversations between two building analysts at Robert Fleming, the merchant bank, and Tony Knox, the chairman of Financial Dynamics, the public relations company which represents Caradon. On the same day, Robert Fleming Asset Management, the bank's fund management arm, sold a block of ten million shares.

Yesterday, it emerged that David Reed and Martin Murch, the two analysts, had left the bank and were now acting as consultants. Fleming launched its own inquiry into the affair, but has refused to comment on its findings.

The DTI's involvement will cause further embarrassment to Financial Dynamics which was severely rebuked by the Takeover Panel for a leak of information about another company in December. The company has vigorously denied that it leaked any price-sensitive information about Caradon.

The Stock Exchange first launched an investigation into trading in Caradon shares in September after the share price tumbled from 21p from 21p on an unusually heavy trading. Accurate forecasts of Caradon's results also appeared in the Sunday press and the company had to bring forward its results announcement to the Monday. The Exchange concluded at the time there was no case to answer.

The investigation was revived on December 12 after new evidence came to light. On the same day, Financial Dynamics was reprimanded by the Takeover Panel for leaking price-sensitive information to a broker on Amec, the construction company, which was then embroiled in a takeover battle. Financial Dynamics was subsequently replaced by Dewe Rogerson as Amec's advisers.

Pennington, page 25

City welcomes rate cut and hopes for more

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE City and industry applauded the Chancellor's decision to cut base rates by a quarter of a point to 6.25 per cent yesterday, arguing that inflationary trends justified the move which was needed to bolster the economy's flagging growth.

Financial markets immediately priced in further cuts in interest rates this spring as part of a Europe-wide move to use easier money to revive economies. Rates were also cut in France and The Netherlands and, although the Bundesbank left key German interest rates unchanged, there are expectations of German rate cuts to come as well as another drop in US rates.

Sterling futures markets soared yesterday and are now discounting two more quarter-point cuts by the end of June. Government bonds rallied by half a point and the stock market soared to a new high, the FT-SE 100 index closing 44.5 points higher at 3,748.7.

Industry was as euphoric as the markets. Richard Brown, deputy director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "We are delighted that the Chancellor has cut interest rates, we called for it and it was the right time to do it." The move was also welcomed by the Institute of Directors and the Confederation of British Industry.

However, ten million households with mortgages will not enjoy the immediate benefits of the rate cut, after leading mortgage lenders yesterday signalled that they would not lower their home loan rates after they had already moved late last year. Normally, borrowers could expect to see their monthly outgoings reduced by about £4 on a £30,000 repayment loan and £7.24 on a £50,000 mortgage.

Economists, too, were generally favourable, although there was some nervousness about timing. Some argued that it came too soon after the quarter-point cut in base rates in December and smacked of political desperation.

Roger Bootle, chief economist at Midland Bank, said: "The authorities need to go a lot further in the coming months. The world economy is slipping away and there is a significant danger of recession on a global scale."

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said in a statement after the rate cut was announced that the marked slowdown in Britain's key export markets has been a factor in his decision. And slow world growth is expected to figure at the meeting of the Group of Seven in Paris this weekend.

There was some concern yesterday that the decision had been taken in spite of a rise in headline inflation to 3.2 per cent in December, compared with 3.1 per cent in November. The Central Statistical Office said that just over half of this rise was due to



Kenneth Clarke yesterday, after the bank rate had been cut by a quarter of a point to 6.25 per cent

non-seasonal food. The message from yesterday's retail sales figures was also mixed. Volumes rose by only 0.4 per cent in December. However, sales in October and November were revised upwards and the underlying trend of consumer spending appears to be picking up. Against a year ago, sales were up 1.7 per cent. The equivalent year-on-year rate in October was 0.4 per cent.

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UniChem to buy Lloyds for £547m

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

UNICHEM has agreed a bid for Lloyds Chemists that values the group at about £547 million. The takeover will create Britain's largest chemist chain with 1,300 outlets, pushing Boots into second place, and give UniChem about 35 per cent of the wholesale and 11 per cent of the retail market.

The offer values each Lloyds ordinary share at 42p and each preference share at 27p. There is also a partial cash alternative worth about 40p.

Allen Lloyd, chairman of Lloyds Chemists, has agreed to sell the family stake which should net about £41 million.

The two companies' shares surged yesterday. UniChem closed at 258.5p, up 19.5p, while Lloyds closed at 401p, up 35p on the day.

UniChem said it would rename almost the Lloyds chemists as Moss, the chain it bought four years ago and has since expanded. It wants to develop its own-label brands to compete with Boots. This

could lead to price-cutting, Jeff Harris, chief executive, said.

The two businesses were highly complementary, he said, and buying Lloyds should bring savings. UniChem is strong in pharmaceutical wholesaling and distribution, while Lloyds brings 924 stores, its Holland & Barrett health food chain and a veterinary wholesaler. The larger group will have more buying power.

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Lloyd: selling family stake

Bristol & West deters speculators

By ROBERT MILLER

BRISTOL & WEST, the ninth largest building society with one million savers and 180,000 borrowers, yesterday raised the minimum amount needed to open accounts that confer membership rights and qualify for bonus payouts, in the event of a merger or takeover, to £2,500.

The society, which has assets of £1.8 billion, has, with the Britannia, been the subject of speculation about its future. As a mutual organisation. Both have been considered possible takeover targets or candidates for mergers prior to a stock market listing.

John Burke, chief executive of the Bristol & West, said there were "no plans to merge or convert to plc status". He added: "We have decided to take this action now, in line with a number of other societies, in order to manage speculative investment."

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Pennington, page 25

Five years for ex-bank manager in fee fraud

By ROBERT MILLER

A FORMER Barclays Bank manager was jailed for five years yesterday for his part in an international "advanced fee" fraud, in which hundreds of investors lost "tens of millions".

Four other men received a total of 15 years after being convicted at Wood Green Crown Court, London, of conspiracy to defraud. Matthew Oke, who received 3½ years, and David Oluyitan, who was given four years, were recommended to be deported to Nigeria after serving sentence. Abdul Khaliq received 30 months.

Passing sentence on Victor Boulter, Judge Owen Stale, QC, said that his knowledge and expertise as a former Barclays Bank manager had been a key part in the fraud. Boulter and another defendant, Victor Watson, who was also given five years, had posed as bank managers using the identities of real bank officials.

Among the investors targeted with Nigerian scam letters are a judge and a former Metropolitan Police Commissioner. Detective Inspector David Crinion of the Metropolitan Police Company Fraud Squad, who led the investigation with the help of West End

Central division, said thousands of the letters had been sent to public figures, charities, including Christian Aid, and senior company executives.

The letters, which have turned up in 51 countries, were often written on Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation headed paper or other government departments, state that the sender, a senior Nigerian civil servant, and his colleagues, have over-invoiced the Government on contracts and need to place the money in overseas bank accounts. The bait for the potential investors to provide details of their personal accounts is sometimes as

much as \$20 million. Mr Crinion, whose team was commended by the judge, said: "Translated, these letters have the same theme: 'Dear Sir or Madam, I am a thief who has stolen a lot of money from the Government and I would like your help to get it out of Nigeria.' These monies do not exist and never have."

The mastermind is "Chief" Frank Okosa, described as a fugitive believed to be in Nigeria. The judge ordered that £219,373 found in his Barclays bank account be handed over.

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Profits take off at Vega

By MARTIN BARROW

VEGA GROUP, the software and engineering company whose principal clients are the European Space Agency and the UK Ministry of Defence, increased pre-tax profits 25 per cent to £1.27 million from £1.02 million in the half year to October 31.

John Rigg, chairman, said the flow of contracts has remained strong. Awards included a £1 million contract for the development of a computerised aircraft training system (Cats) for the Royal Navy and a £1.4 million contract for spacecraft operations and software support for the Envisat spacecraft. Vega is also developing a runway simulation system for the Civil Aviation Authority.

First-half earnings were 5.0p a share, rising from 4.76p. The interim dividend is increased to 1.75p a share from 1.4p. The shares rose 5p to 348p yesterday.



Kelvin Harrison, managing director of Vega, at the controls of a Tornado jet during a visit to RAF Cottesmore

Channel shoppers hit revenue

CUSTOMS and Excise collected £73 billion last year and the Inland Revenue £87 billion. Cross-border shopping is quickly reducing revenue but the loss is being offset by the new insurance premium tax (Nigel Williamson writes).

The figures are contained in the National Audit Office's annual report. It shows cross-border shopping reduced revenue £30 million in 1994 (£310 million in 1993). Of the three new taxes in 1994-95 air passenger duty will yield £315 million in its first year. The new insurance premium tax will yield £600 million and the lottery should yield £700 million.

The Inland Revenue reduced tax outstanding for more than three months to £2.217 billion, 7.8 per cent of collectable charges. Volume 12 of the Appropriation Accounts 1994-95.

Orders and confidence steadier say chambers

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS confidence and orders are stabilising, and industry is set for reasonable trading in 1996, leaders of Britain's chambers of commerce said yesterday.

The findings of the latest quarterly trends survey from the British Chambers of Commerce, released as the Bank of England announced a quarter-point rate cut, support the idea that the current slowdown is a pause in the UK's economic growth, rather than a move towards a downturn.

But ministers, officials and business leaders will wait until next week's quarterly industrial trends report from the Confederation of British Industry to form their final view of the current state of UK industry.

Over the past year, successive BCC surveys have become more strident about the impact of the economic slow-

down on industry and services. Yesterday, it said its latest findings reversed some of the trends seen during that time.

In particular, the decline in home and export sales in manufacturing has stopped, mirroring greater stability in service sector growth. Overall confidence, having deteriorated, is stabilising. But employment growth looks like slowing.

The survey of almost 7,700 companies for the final quarter of last year showed that firms are not expecting a strong upturn in business, and the BCC said that the level at which growth would be sustained looked "modest rather than spectacular, falling far short of the heady levels seen at this time last year".

Chambers leaders said that growth of anything like 3 per cent would not be achieved without further rate cuts.

though they called for some stability in rates now until the late spring or early summer.

Key results from the survey included:

□ Orders. In manufacturing, the rate of fall-off in orders declined, with the balance of companies — those recording a rise set against those registering a fall — reporting an increase in orders dropping back from 14 to 13 per cent. Service sector orders dropped back from 21 to 19 per cent.

□ Exports. Export order growth has slowed, but is still rising — up in manufacturing from 26 to 28 per cent.

□ Jobs. Spurred by medium-sized firms with 20-499 employees, job growth was sustained, though companies' expectations suggest that the rate of growth will slow, especially in the service sector.

□ Investment. Manufacturing investment in plant and machinery is slowing.

□ Confidence. Manufacturing confidence has stabilised, after dipping in the previous quarter's survey to its lowest level for three years.

Chambers' leaders said the "cautious optimism" offered "reasonable trading prospects" for the year. While growth did not look like returning to the levels of late 1994 or early last year, "neither, though, does it look like freefalling towards recession".

Robin Geldard, BCC president, said: "These figures point towards a better 1996. Adverse movement in domestic sales has stabilised, and exports are holding up, particularly from small firms, though service sector deliveries continue their downward trend. But constraints on growth persist."

Hostility grows to levy for gas users

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government was last night still weighing whether to impose a levy on 18 million household domestic users to bail out British Gas from loss-making take-or-pay contracts, amid growing resistance from consumer representatives and industry about the effects.

The Gas Consumers Council warned that a levy could cost £46 per family, if the burden, estimated at £1.5 billion, was shared between industry and householders.

Ian Powe, the council's director, said: "Given that VAT adds less than £30 to the average bill — and look what a fuss that caused — a levy can be expected to cause political outrage even if it is spread over a few years."

Industrial gas customers claimed that a levy would constitute illegal state aid to British Gas, and they consider legal action under Article 92 of the Treaty of Rome if the Government proceeded.

In a letter to Tim Eggar, the Energy Minister, the Energy Intensive Users Group (EIUG), representing companies in the cement, glass, chemicals, steel, paper and other industries, said any levy would be unacceptable.

Blakely, the chairman, wrote: "Even the possibility of the introduction of such a levy will ease the pressure on British Gas to renegotiate its supply contracts with North Sea gas producers." Such pressure was "essential" if the Government was to realise its plans to create a competitive gas market in place of the former British Gas monopoly.

To meet its statutory obligations to maintain the supply of gas to homes and industry British Gas signed long-term contracts worth \$40 billion with North Sea gas producers, under which it must pay for gas whether or not it is used. The company now has more gas contracted than it needs because many business customers have signed up with rivals, and last year was obliged to pay £20 million for gas it did not sell.

In draft licences sent to rival shippers this week, the Department of Trade and Industry confirmed it was considering powers to impose a levy, which would be passed on to consumers, to fund part of the contract liabilities.

The delays to the draft shippers' licences may oblige the Government to delay plans to enable householders to choose their gas supplier in a pilot area from April 1.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Fokker future hangs in the balance

EFFORTS to save Fokker, the Dutch regional aircraft maker, appeared close to collapse last night after it emerged that the Dutch Government and Daimler-Benz, which controls the company, have failed to make progress on a restructuring plan. The Dutch Government, which owns a minority stake, had turned down a request by Daimler to inject 1 billion guilders (£400 million). Daimler says Fokker needs 2.3 billion guilders of new cash after losing 651 million guilders during the first half. A last ditch meeting between Juergen Schrempf, the Daimler chairman, and Hans Wijers, the Dutch Economic Minister, is scheduled for today.

Thousands of British jobs hang upon Fokker's fate. Wings for the company's 80 and 100-seat jets are built by Short Brothers in Belfast, and the planes are powered by Rolls-Royce Tay engines from Derby. But British Aerospace is Fokker's chief rival in civil markets.

Repsol profits strong

REPSOL, the Spanish oil company, reported strong 1995 earnings yesterday to coincide with the launch of a £700 billion share offer to reduce the Government's stake from 21 to 10 per cent. Net income last year rose 22 per cent to 117.7 billion pesetas (£626 million), generated largely by gas and chemicals. Repsol is offering 11 per cent of its stock. The offer includes a 4 per cent discount for small investors and an institutional tranche for the UK. The institutional offer price will be fixed on February 5.

Stagecoach pulls ahead

SHARES in Stagecoach, the bus company, rose 11p to 342p yesterday after John Taylor, the Competition and Consumer Affairs Minister, accepted a finding by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that its acquisition of Chesterfield Transport was not expected to operate against the public interest. The MMC report said it had found that the loss of actual competition between Chesterfield and East Midlands Motor Services, Stagecoach's subsidiary in the area, was relatively small.

Disposal by Xerox

XEROX Corp is to sell the rest of its insurance businesses for \$2.7 billion, taking a \$1.5 billion after-tax charge in connection with the deal, it was announced yesterday. The office machines company is selling the remaining insurance units of Talegen Holdings, its property and casualty insurance group, to investor groups led by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co and the current management. The sales conclude a two-year effort to unload the troubled insurance businesses, which Xerox acquired in the early 1980s.

Dublin theatre swap

BREAK FOR THE BORDER, the restaurant to nightclub group, has agreed to swap Dick's Last Resort in London's Covent Garden for Dublin's Gaiety Theatre. The theatre, which seats 1,185, is expected to show a pre-tax profit for the year to June 30 of Ir£370,000 on turnover of Ir£1.5 million. Break for the Border hopes to raise revenue by the addition of further live music dates during the season when the theatre is not let. There will also be balancing of payments between the group and Gerry O'Reilly, the Gaiety's current owner.

Ofwat seeks changes

THE Ofwat National Customer Council wants more information about the annual rise in bills sent out with the demands and more details of how water consumers can complain. This appeal comes ahead of the next round of bills and just days after Ian Byatt, the water regulator, wrote to the heads of water companies over excessive connection charges. Jim Gardner, chairman of the council, said: "I believe that there is scope for companies to perform much better in explaining their charges to their customers."

NatWest

National Westminster Bank announces that with effect from 18 January 1996 its Base Rate is reduced from 6.5% to 6.25% per annum.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to NatWest Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

National Westminster Bank plc
41 Lombard, London EC2P 3BP

ANZ Grindlays Base Rate

ANZ Grindlays Bank plc announces that its base rate has changed from 6.50% to 6.25% with effect from close of business 18th January 1996.

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Australia \$	2.15	1.99
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Belgium Fr	49.07	44.77
Canada \$	2.188	2.028
Cyprus Cyp£	0.747	0.892
Denmark Kr	9.29	8.49
Finland Mk	7.38	6.73
France Fr	8.07	7.42
Germany Dm	2.40	2.18
Greece Dr	386.00	363.00
Hong Kong \$	12.44	11.44
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1800	4.5100
Italy Lira	2093.00	2368.00
Japan Yen	174.90	158.90
Malta	0.589	0.534
Netherlands Gld	2.665	2.435
New Zealand \$	2.46	2.29
Norway Kr	10.41	9.61
Portugal Esc	243.00	224.50
S Africa Rd	nat.	5.31
Spain Ps	166.00	183.00
Sweden Kr	10.81	10.01
Switzerland Fr	1.94	1.78
Turkey Lira	nat.	87772.0
USA \$	1.823	1.693

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Barclays Bank PLC.

Interest Rates for Business Customers, Charities and Societies with effect from 18th January 1996.

ACCOUNT TITLE	GROSS RATE (% PA)	NET RATE (% PA)
BUSINESS PREMIUM ACCOUNT. (Rates also apply to Farmers Premium Account) - instant access.		
£0 - £499	2.375	1.781
£500 - £1,999	2.375	1.781
£2,000 - £24,999	2.750	2.063
£25,000 - £99,999	3.250	2.438
£100,000 - £249,999	3.500	2.625
£250,000 - £1 million	3.625	2.719
HIGH INTEREST BUSINESS ACCOUNT - 14 days' notice.		
£2,000 - £9,999	3.375	2.531
£10,000 - £24,999	4.125	3.094
£25,000 - £99,999	4.625	3.469
£100,000 - £249,999	4.875	3.656
£250,000 +	5.000	3.750
CLIENT'S PREMIUM ACCOUNT		
£10,000 - £24,999	3.500	2.625
£25,000 - £99,999	3.750	2.813
£100,000 - £249,999	4.125	3.094
£250,000 - £999,999	4.250	3.188
£1 million +	4.375	3.281
BARCLAYS COMMUNITY ACCOUNT. (An interest bearing current account for clubs, charities, churches and societies.) No minimum balance. Interest paid quarterly.		
£0 - £4,999	0.750	0.563
£5,000 - £9,999	1.250	0.938
£10,000 - £24,999	1.750	1.313
£25,000 +	2.250	1.688
SEVEN DAY DEPOSIT ACCOUNT. (A seven days' notice account.) No minimum balance. Interest paid half-yearly.	0.500	0.375

† GROSS RATE is the contractual rate of interest payable not taking account of the deduction of income tax at the basic rate.

* NET RATE is the rate which would be payable after allowing for the deduction of income tax at the current basic rate from the gross rate. Basic Rate Tax (BRT) may vary and therefore the net rate is given as an illustration only. BRT will only be deducted in those cases where the Bank is obliged to do so.

Interest rates quoted are subject to variation. For further information on these or any other services please contact your local Barclays branch or Business Centre who will be pleased to help.

BARCLAYS

Barclays Bank PLC, Reg. London, England. Reg. No. 1036167. Reg. Office: 54 Lombard Street, London EC3M 3AF.

Barclays Base Rate Change.

Barclays Bank PLC and Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited announce that with effect from 18th January 1996, their Base Rate decreased from 6.50% to 6.25%



BARCLAYS

BARCLAYS BANK PLC AND BARCLAYS BANK TRUST COMPANY LIMITED
REGISTERED OFFICE: 54 LOMBARD STREET, LONDON EC3M 3AF
REGISTERED NUMBERS: 1020467 AND 1020881

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

NEW INTEREST RATES

With effect from 19th January 1996

Base Rate has been reduced by 0.25% to 6.25%

Midland Bank plc

The Listening Bank

Member HSBC Group

55 من الأصل

□ A case to answer at Caradon □ Clarke's credibility grows in base rate tussle □ The long shadow of Nigerian fraud

A postcard from the real world

THIS column is not able to bring you the true story of the Caradon affair, although that story, or a fair approximation of it, is circulating around the City. For those on the outside, here are a few undisputed facts, and the best of luck in joining the dots.

In September, days before some dire interim results, Caradon shares took a swift fall amid heavy trading. Forecasts of the poor figures appeared in the Sunday press, and the figures were rushed out.

The Stock Exchange has now examined the matter and sent a report to the Department of Trade and Industry. The inquiry will have taken in a taped conversation between Financial Dynamics, one of the City's biggest public relations agencies, and Robert Fleming. The former is retained by Caradon; the latter has no link with it. Financial Dynamics insists no sensitive information was imparted by that phone call, a fact readily checkable by the authorities.

Also under consideration is the parallel sale of ten million Caradon shares by Fleming's fund management arm, which is separate from its securities business, that same Friday. Two employees of the securities side, who cover the building materials sector including Caradon, are no longer employed by the bank.

There is no causal link estab-

lished between phone call and share sale — indeed, there is some evidence they may not be connected at all.

Financial Dynamics has already been censured by the City Takeover Panel after price-sensitive information on another client, the builder Amec, leaked into the market.

Thus, the facts. Now some rumour, and an explanation of how things work in the real world. City gossip says the Stock Exchange is keen to collar a public relations firm, any one will do, because it feels they are all playing fast and loose with its rules over disclosure.

In theory, all price-sensitive information should go to everyone at the same time through the City's Topic screens. This rule has been tightened, as witness the rush of trading updates, mostly anodyne, that flood those screens. In practice, the market is steered, massaged, have it how you will, in a number of ways.

For example, analysts scurry away from company briefings and adjust their profit expectations for the year. They then often cross-check with the com-

pany itself, via an elaborate pantomime of nods and winks, that they are on the same planet as the company's own views. Analysts are not infallible; in fact, some are pretty thick.

Likewise, if bad news is on the way it is in the company's interest for the market's hopes not to be too high. This must be done without allowing anyone to benefit — this last is important, because if anyone gains financially, it is insider trading.

Even the most mild upset, in today's nervous market, can send share prices off by 20 per cent or more, a quite unjustified response. It is in no one's interests, investors, companies or the City, for share prices to rock up and down like Yo-Yos on any slight hiccup in trading.

Eddie rues the day

WILL Eddie George's reputation ever recover from giving Ken Clarke the wrong advice on interest rates last May?

Ever since the Chancellor gamely refused to raise rates and



was proved right by the economic evidence, Mr George has struggled. Interest rate futures have soared, discounting more rate cuts to come. He must rue the day he agreed to an open and accountable system of monetary policy-making.

The Governor refused to comment on yesterday's rate cut, seeking refuge instead in the system of publishing minutes of monetary meetings six weeks later. The idea was always that by keeping the content of his pow-wows with the Chancellor secret for a while, the authorities could avoid undue speculation.

But psychology doesn't work that way and nor does the Chancellor. If he has something to say, he says it. That is fine if

you are on the side of the angels, and palpably embarrassing when you are bedevilled, as the Treasury Select Committee said of Mr George this week, with a reputation for being too pessimistic about inflation.

It seems that, once one man gets the upper hand, his power in the decision-making process grows exponentially. After May's misjudgment, it was almost impossible for Mr George to advise strongly against the Chancellor's instincts without risking a further loss of credibility. And having been right once, the Chancellor is that much more likely to defy his Governor.

From the reaction of the markets yesterday, it is the Chancellor's rate-cutting instincts which are again being applauded. The futures markets are already looking for another quarter point cut by the end of March and another by June.

If Mr George's credibility is in question, that of Tony Blair seems assured. The markets set interest rates of 6.75 per cent as far off as December 1997, when Mr Blair may have his feet up in 10 Downing Street. This hardly

suggests a panic reaction to a Labour victory — but perhaps that is because Mr George will probably still be there.

A fool and his money...

NEVER underestimate the power of human stupidity — and human greed. Surely anyone, at least anyone who has not spent the past five years in a Tibetan monastery or exploring the Marianas trench by submersible, knows about Nigerian advance payment frauds.

Yet still they pop through the letter-box, suggesting instant and pain-free riches if the "investor" helps the fraudster to get at piles of cash unaccountably tied up in Nigeria, and still they find their victims. What most letters are saying is, let us at your bank account and we will put money in. Expressed that way, it is perhaps not too surprising that the money goes the other way.

The pattern of fraud is changing. Now, rather than being based in Nigeria and fleeing British idiots, the fraudsters set

up a base in London through which to fleece idiots in other countries. This makes life more difficult for the police, required to chase the crooks through different jurisdictions, a point made recently by George Staples at the SFO. Not much help is on hand from the Nigerian Government, probably because the fraud runs all the way to the top.

Perhaps we are trying too hard. The judge at yesterday's trial of five convicted fraudsters made it clear that anyone taking them up on their claims must have known they themselves were embarking on a crime. The message is thus: any promise of unearned riches is a rip-off, anything promising ditto and anything promising Nigeria, doubly so. You have been warned. Anyone caught out in future has only themselves to blame.

Frozen accounts

TIME was when building societies put up the shutters when they were running out of cash. Now a clutch of them, including the Alliance & Leicester and most recently the Bristol & West, have been turning the stuff away, overwhelmed by all the speculative fervour. The beneficiaries are the banks, presumably, in for a hefty windfall from investors desperate for somewhere to put their cash.

Hamleys reports festive record

By SARAH BAGNALL

HAMLEYS, the toy retailer, yesterday said its flagship Regent Street store had a record Christmas. While Laura Ashley announced good UK sales in the run-up to Christmas, Hamleys reported a 5.9 per cent rise in like-for-like sales at its stores in Regent Street, Heathrow, Covent Garden and the Skyline operation. After a slightly disappointing November, the Regent Street store saw strong sales in December and recorded its best single day's sales on Friday December 22.

New store openings at the Channel Tunnel and Schiphol airport in Holland, helped Hamleys' other operations to lift sales 35.9 per cent, a performance offset by falling revenues from Skyline.

The group said gross margins had been maintained. Laura Ashley, the fabrics and clothing retailer, saw like-for-like sales rise 4.8 per cent in the eight weeks leading up to Christmas. The performance reflects a 12.2 per cent advance in like-for-like sales in the UK, offset by a 7.7 per cent decline in North America. The sales were achieved at the expense of margins but the impact was negated by cost savings elsewhere in the group.

Meanwhile, Thorntons reported a like-for-like sales advance in its own shops of 8.5 per cent in the four weeks to Christmas Eve. Refitted stores achieved an even larger advance of 15.6 per cent. Franchises fared less well, lifting underlying sales 2 per cent.

IBM surprises with best earnings for over a decade

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

IBM, the computer company, has turned in its best performance for more than a decade, exceeding Wall Street's highest earnings estimates and confirming its recovery is back on track.

The results show that the company's dramatic change of strategy under Lou Gerstner, its chairman, is beginning to pay off handsomely. While profits were negligible in the highly competitive and low margin personal computer market which IBM helped to start in the early 1980s, its venture into computer networking and corporate mainframe systems is proving highly profitable. This is helping to revive the company after it seemed to have lost its way in the 1990s.

During the fourth quarter of 1995 the company's revenues rose 10 per cent to \$21.9 billion.

while earnings were \$2.0 billion compared with analysts' estimates of about \$1.7 billion. For the whole year, earnings more than doubled from \$3 billion to \$6.3 billion, excluding a one-off charge from the acquisition of Lotus, the software company that IBM bought last year. Revenues for the year rose 12 per cent to \$71.9 billion.

Mr Gerstner said: "Our 1995 revenues were a record, with the best rate of revenue growth since 1984." The results show that the company has recovered from the late delivery of some products last summer which damaged its performance in the third quarter.

Mr Gerstner also said that the controversial purchase of Lotus for \$3 billion was paying off, despite high-level staff defections and problems with

integrating Lotus into the IBM culture. The purchase was designed to boost IBM's software operations and during the last quarter 1.2 million copies of the Lotus Notes networking programme were sold. Over the last six months it has sold more of the Notes program than in the previous six-year history of the product, Mr Gerstner said.

However, analysts said the outlook for this year may not be so good. Bill Milton, of Brown Brothers, said: "There will definitely be a less benign operating environment than there has been for the last two years." The slowing economy would dampen spending on corporate computing and reduce demand for personal computers. Income from overseas, which provides about 60 per cent of IBM revenues, was also likely to fall.

Manweb seeks more industrial customers

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

MANWEB is to press ahead with building up industrial customers under ScottishPower, its new parent, to redress a 45 per cent loss of commercial business.

Mike Kinski, the chief executive of the northwestern electricity company that serves a large commercial base, said that the strategy would be as much geared to offering industrial users the type of deal they wanted as to price.

ScottishPower yesterday confirmed the job losses at

Manweb that it outlined at the time of acquisition last October. It said that the action, which will be complete by March, will have cut the workforce by 37 per cent since last March to 2,800. Between April and September last year, more than 1,000 employees left Manweb.

Annual cost-saving estimates of £92 million are predicted for 1997-98 after ScottishPower absorbs exceptional costs of £42.7 million. These will be taken in the forthcoming half-year to the end of March.

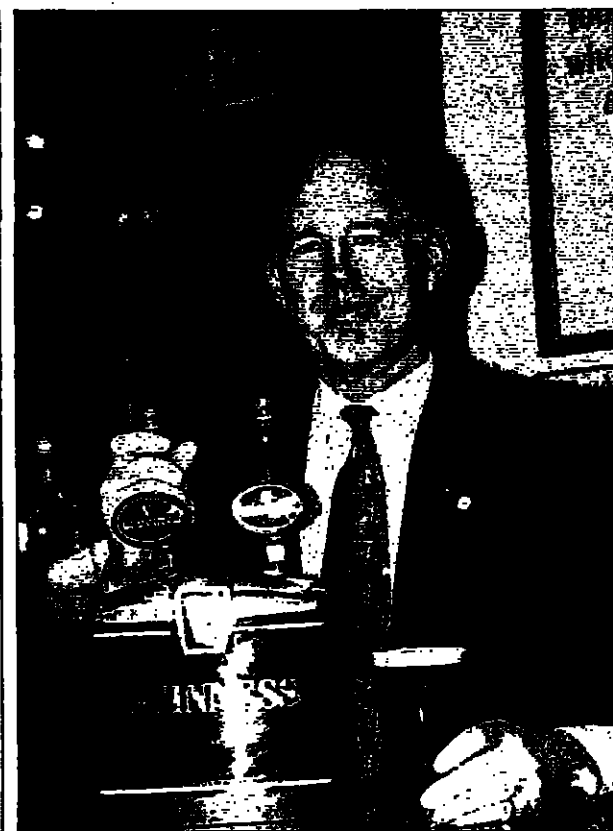
Ian Robinson, the chief executive of ScottishPower, said that the acquisition of Manweb would be earnings enhancing in the 1996-97 financial year and that the dividend for the 1995-96 year would be 15.5p, an increase of 13.6 per cent.

Accounting change hits McDonnell

MCDONNELL DOUGLAS, the military and commercial aircraft manufacturer, plunged into loss during 1995 after an accounting change forced the company to make a \$1.8 billion one-off charge (Richard Thomson writes from New York).

However, before accounting for the charge the results show that business was strong during the year, supporting the company's decision to remain independent for the time after the collapse of its merger talks with Boeing.

Without the charge, earnings rose 13 per cent to \$187 million, thanks partly to a record year for the company's military aircraft business. After the charge, however, there was a \$936 million loss for the fourth quarter of last year, and the loss for the year was \$416 million.



Tony Greener: aiming for improved productivity

City dismay at £39m Guinness write-off

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

GUINNESS, the drinks company, shocked the market yesterday by revealing it would take a further £39 million restructuring charge in its year-end results.

The company said it would write-off £29 million to improve productivity at its Spanish subsidiary, Cruzcampo, and a £10 million charge at United Distillers to make further cost reductions. It also revealed that difficult trading conditions in Japan had resulted in profits being £10 million below forecasts.

The share price slipped back 14.5p to 474.5p as the City reacted angrily to the latest write-offs, which bring restructuring costs to a total of £64 million for 1995. Analysts immediately downgraded their 1995 profit estimates to below £900 million.

The latest write-offs at Cruzcampo come after a £72

million provision in 1992 for a three-year restructuring plan. Guinness paid £500 million for the company in 1990 but has been hit by a big drop in demand for beer in Spain.

Tony Greener, chairman of Guinness, said: "The additional charges reflect our continued determination to take the necessary action to raise productivity and operational efficiency, which will pay back to shareholders in improved profitability and competitive effectiveness."

The company added that trading conditions in Europe remained difficult, although volume and profit were ahead in the UK and Spain. But Guinness Brewing Worldwide reported good trading, while United Distillers has performed well in emerging markets and Australia.

Tempos, page 26

Base Rate

Bank of Scotland announces that with effect from Thursday 18 January 1996 its Base Rate has been reduced from 6.50% per annum to 6.25% per annum.

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STOCK MARKET

PHILIP FANGALOS

Shares scale the peaks after interest rate cut

SHARES resumed their bull run as the market celebrated the Bank of England's surprise 0.25 per cent cut in base rates to 6.25 per cent by surprising to records.

The London market was revitalised as the latest interest rate cut combined with renewed corporate activity, firming up and hopes of further rate cuts. There was genuine support for the market, although dealers said trading conditions were "squeaky" with shares pushed higher as market-makers scrambled to cover their positions amid an absence of sellers.

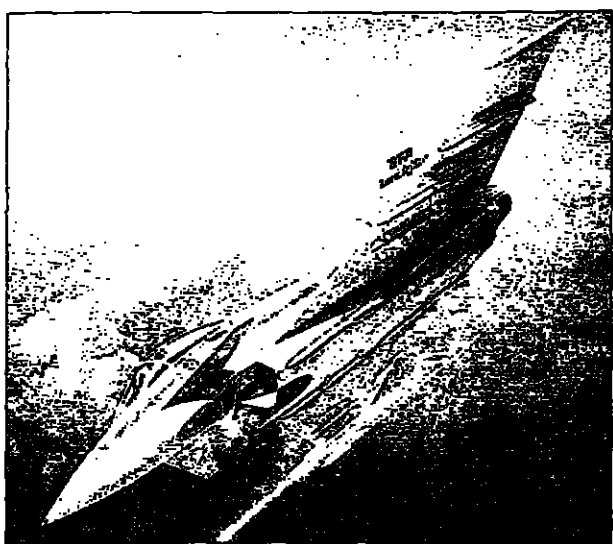
A positive start to trading on Wall Street helped further bolster sentiment in London. The FT-SE 100 index surged 45.5 points to touch a new intra-day peak of 3,749.7 before slipping back a little to end 44.5 up at a record close of 3,748.7. Volume, boosted by a couple of late buy programmes, reached 945.6 million shares.

Among leading shares, British Aerospace surged 29½p higher to 894½p, with strong demand after broker recommendations and reports that Britain and Germany had reached agreement on 230 Eurofighters, expected to result in about earnings of £10 billion for British industry.

Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, set the tone by reiterating its buy recommendation on BAE and suggesting a break-up value of £1.2 a share and a medium-term target price of £10.50.

BAE, which has a 20 per cent interest in the Airbus consortium, continues to be buoyed by three-pronged support from defence order hopes, more Airbus orders and optimism ahead of the flotation of Orange, the mobile phone network where BAE has a 32 per cent stake.

The City gave its support as UniChem launched an anticipated but higher-than-expected agreed offer for Lloyds Chemists, Britain's second highest high street chemist. Shares in Lloyds Chemists surged by 35p, or nearly 10 per cent, to 401p, on volume of 20.6 million shares, giving a two-day rise of 110p. UniChem added 19½p to 258½p. The rise values the offer at 422p a share or £546.8 million. The deal, which will create the country's largest retail pharmacy chain and the UK's biggest drugs wholesaler, had been expected but was well received by



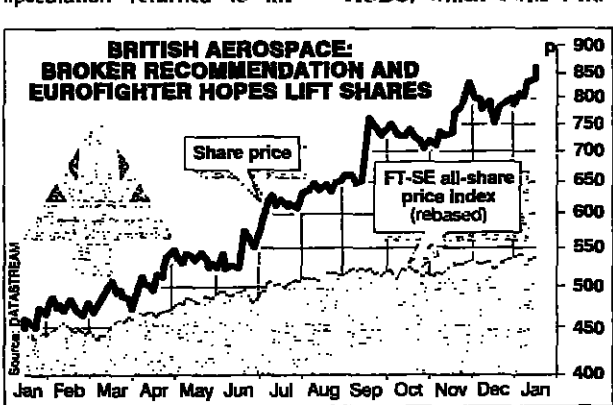
Agreement on the Eurofighter helped BAE shares to soar

analysts who talked of good commercial logic and potential cost savings.

Staying with bids, Forte rose 4p to 381½p as volume swelled to 59.5 million shares, with many brokers expecting Granada to win control of the prestigious hotels and restaurants group. However, the bid is still finely poised and Mercury Asset Management, the

Lloyds TSB rose 14½p to 340½p as greater optimism about margins prompted Merrill Lynch to upgrade its profit forecasts and reiterate its buy stance. Merrill has raised its 1996 forecast for Lloyds TSB by 6 per cent, from £2.1 billion to £2.24 billion, with 1997's estimate up from £2.3 billion to £2.5 billion.

fund manager that has built up a near 15 per cent stake in Forte and is due to meet with both parties today, will play a key role in determining the winner of the £3.8 billion bid battle. Granada, which has lifted its stake in Forte to 9.9 per cent, added 3p to 60p, on volume of 8.04 million. The offer closes on Tuesday. Elsewhere, persistent bid speculation returned to lift



land, added 29p to £10.52½ as positive comment from SBC Warburg and NatWest offered news of a \$42 million fraud at the group's HongKongBank unit in Indonesia. Standard Chartered, seen as a possible bid candidate, advanced 10p to 59½p after positive noises and an upgrade from SBC Warburg. Royal Bank of Scotland, also seen as a bid candidate, gained 14p to 57½p as Lord Younger, chairman, told the annual meeting he expects 1996 to be a year of reasonable economic growth and low inflation.

Guinness was the biggest casualty among leading shares, falling 14½p to 474½p, or 2.97 per cent, on volume of 10.6 million shares, after the group announced a further £39 million restructuring charge, mainly relating to Spain. The news prompted a number of brokers to downgrade profits, with some current year estimates cut by £40 million to below £900 million.

British Gas continued its retreat, sliding to 247p before ending down 2p to 253p, on heavy volume of 28.4 million shares traded. The shares have been depressed by concerns about unprofitable gas supply contracts and a tough line on pricing from Ofgas, the industry regulator. Goldman Sachs joined the growing list of brokers turning negative on the group.

The petrol price war sparked by Esso, the UK's biggest petrol retailer, and Shell, the second largest retailer, continued to depress the major players and supermarket groups, but took a heavier toll on independent retailers such as Frost Group, down 10p to 25p, giving a two-day loss of 20p.

CLIFF-EDGED: The timing of the rate cut caught many by surprise and led to prices being squeezed higher as the market looks for further rate cuts. The March long gilt future added 19 ticks to £112½, on heavy volume of 102,000 contracts. Among conventional stocks, gains ranged from 1½ to 5½p for issues over five years. Longs added 1½p, though shorts fared better in terms of yield. Index-linked saw prices rise 1½p.

NEW YORK: Shares were higher at midday after conciliatory comments on budget negotiations by President Clinton. The Dow Jones industrial average was 18.07 points ahead at 5,084.97.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5084.97 (+18.07)
S&P Composite 605.27 (+1.19)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 33770.04 (+200.23)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 10536.49 (+57.33)

Amsterdam:
DAX Index 504.93 (+0.07)

Sydney:
All Ordinaries 2250.14 (+0.1)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2380.80 (+0.60)

Singapore:
Straits Times 2296.37 (+6.21)

Brussels:
CAC-40 3630.99 (+47.82)

Paris:
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Zurich:
SIX 228.20 (+3.90)

London:
FT-100 3748.7 (+44.5)

FT-SE Mid 250 408.2 (+2.26)

FT-SE A 350 1887.43 (+19.5)

FT-SE Europe 100 157.45 (+2.09)

FT A All-Share 1829.71 (+18.11)

FT Non Financials 1930.44 (+15.99)

FT Financials 1142.81 (+0.32)

FT 100 Index 3630.99 (+47.82)

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TEMPUS

Sell Forte in the market

FORTE has done a good job defending itself from Granada. Over and above the predictable bad-mouthing of conglomerates and upstart caterers, the once-sleepy hotels group has found itself a strategy. Cupboards have been opened to public view and there are indications that the interests of all the shareholders will in future take priority over the very personal interest of a few.

But for the strategy to be credible, the company must be prepared to cast a cold eye on all of its assets. That means selling the low yielding "Exclusive" hotel properties while retaining management contracts which generate higher returns. The proposed sale of the residential restaurants will make Forte a higher-risk investment. Success requires that a former collector of hotels transforms itself into a management company with a sideline

in opportunistic property investment. That implies a huge change in culture in a company still run by the same team but investors who opt for Granada paper also run risks. Claims that Granada can generate £100 million of cost-savings look optimistic when it intends to shed two thirds of the Forte assets. A difficult task for a vendor under pressure in an illiquid hotel market. Granada has a good track record in cost-cutting but it has yet to demonstrate the selling skills of Hanson.

There is a third route that offers certain gain and no risk. The market was yesterday offering 333p for Forte share compared with Granada's cash alternative of 362p or 373p for non-taxpayers. By selling in the market, investors can pocket gains, leaving the option to reinvest at a lower price in either Forte or Granada when the dust has settled.

Guinness

GUINNESS seems intent on proving that the company is not very good for you - or at least for your wallet. A litany of bad news includes September's announcement of restructuring costs at United Distillers, margin problems disclosed in November and yesterday's revelation of further provisions to pay for restructuring at United Distillers and Cruzcampo, its Spanish subsidiary. The share price plunged again as profit forecasts were trimmed to below £900 million, £50 million adrift from bullish mid-year estimates.

The Spanish restructuring costs were especially disappointing. Guinness wrote off £78 million in 1992 for a cost-cutting programme that was only completed in December 1995 and included the closure of three breweries and

UniChem

THE creation of the largest chain of chemists in Britain might give cause for alarm if UniChem's ambition was to take on Boots. Thankfully, the pharmacy wholesaler has an altogether different strategy and one that could be more attractive to investors than Boots' drugs to deodorants supermarkts.

The rebranded retail outlets tend to be in residential rather than town centre locations and will concentrate on pills and potions rather than toiletries. The strategy takes advantage of the Government's policy shift towards self-administered healthcare and the consequential focus by drugs companies on over-the-counter versions of prescription drugs.

UniChem's retail chain will therefore have more of the characteristics of a continental pharmacy than Boots, with its acres of shelves devoted to soaps and sandwiches.

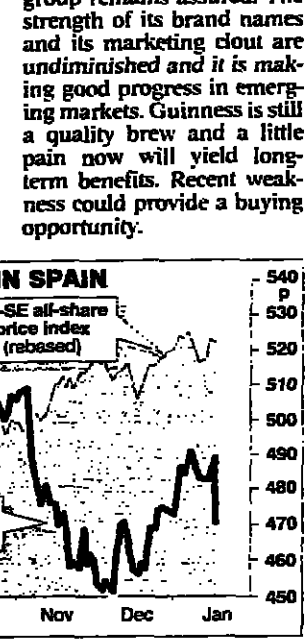
A strategy based on OTC drugs should give UniChem more protection than Boots which is threatened by the grocers with sales of typical chemists' products such as vitamins, which can be sold without the need for a qualified pharmacist.

Recent sales figures suggest that the UniChem strategy works as Moss enjoyed significantly better organic sales growth than Boots or Lloyds, and retail margins on OTC drugs are better than more widely sold medicines. Earnings enhancement could be in double digits this year, and investors will do well to take UniChem shares.

ScottishPower

SCOTTISHPOWER is hoping for big gains from the integration of Manweb. There are obvious savings from knitting together the two power groups, such as a common engineering strategy, administration and computer systems.

THE PAIN IN SPAIN



More significant is the price paid for Manweb which looks a steal in the light of subsequent deals.

ScottishPower paid £900p a share, a valuation that looks positively miserly compared with the £11.70p offered for Seaboard by the American utility, Central and South West Corporation.

ScottishPower also benefits from a vertically integrated haven in which it is protected from new suppliers. National Power and PowerGen which enjoyed a trouble-free swoop on Manweb while they were hailed before the MMC over their courtship of Midlands and Southern.

Scottish has achieved more cost-savings from Manweb. In addition to the £61 million cited by Manweb in its extracted, the new owner has extracted £31 million by squeezing together distribution, sales, marketing and other joint facilities.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

Commodity	Price	Change
Cocoa	1020-1025	+0.10
May	1024.50	
July	1025.50	
Sept	1026.50	
Nov	1027.50	
Dec	1028.50	
Jan	1029.50	
Feb	1030.50	
Mar	1031.50	
Apr	1032.50	
May	1033.50	
June	1034.50	
July	1035.50	
Aug	1036.50	
Sept	1037.50	
Oct	1038.50	
Nov	1039.50	
Dec	1040.50	
Jan	1041.50	
Feb	1042.50	
Mar	1043.50	
Apr	1044.50	
May	1045.50	
June	1046.50	
July	1047.50	
Aug	1048.50	
Sept	1049.50	
Oct	1050.50	
Nov	1051.50	
Dec	1052.50	
Jan	1053.50	
Feb	1054.50	
Mar	1055.50	
Apr	1056.50	
May	1057.50	
June	1058.50	
July	1059.50	
Aug	1060.50	
Sept	1061.50	
Oct	1062.50	
Nov	1063.50	
Dec	1064.50	
Jan	1065.50	
Feb	1066.50	
Mar	1067.50	
Apr	1068.50	
May	1069.50	
June	1070.50	
July	1071.50	
Aug	1072.50	
Sept	1073.50	
Oct	1074.50	
Nov	1075.50	
Dec	1076.50	
Jan	1077.50	
Feb	1078.50	
Mar	1079.50	
Apr	1080.50	
May	1081.50	
June	1082.50	
July	1083.50	
Aug	1084.50	
Sept	1085.50	</

THE
TIMESCITY
DIARY

Manweb chief over the moon

FOR Mike Kinski, chief executive of Manweb, the journey south from parent company Scottish Power had an added incentive. Prior to moving, the keen footballer, who used to play for Coventry's youth team, wondered whether to spend his Saturdays at Liverpool or Everton.

His office, however, commands a view of Chester City's Deva Stadium. And, along with the proximity, the presence at Kinski's new local club of Cyril Regis, one of his former footballing heroes, has sealed his allegiance.

Rocco ages

THE truth is out! It was Sir Rocco Forte's 51st birthday yesterday. And if the man under takeover siege from Granada is looking older, here's why.

For many a year, Sir Rocco was listed in *The International Who's Who* as having been born on February 22, 1945. Even as late as the 1992 edition, that date was listed as his birthday.

Not so, Sir Rocco sent in a correction for the 1994 edition making it clear he was born on January 18. As the editor remarked: "It is usually actresses that change their age — and then they make themselves younger, not older."

And how did Sir Rocco spend last evening? So as not to be seen to favour any particular hotel, he dined at home.

Cut off
GRANADA, in a desperate attempt to contact as many Forte shareholders as possible, has committed the ultimate gaffe.

While sweeping through Forte's share register in search of those countless, but all-important, small shareholders, a representative called a lady's number.

"Hello, I'm phoning on behalf of Granada wondering if you may wish to discuss any aspect of our bid for Forte, in which I note you are a shareholder."

There followed a stony silence, and then came a frosty reply. "No," said the voice... and Lord Forte's personal assistant put down her phone.



Necessary evil

A CLASSIFIED advertisement that appeared in Zimbabwe's *The Herald* reads: "Drivers urgently wanted. Zimbabwean passports essential, but not necessary."

Moving tale?

COULD the packing cases be coming out for Schroders staff at their Cheapside headquarters? The word is that management, keen to embrace the concept of open-plan offices, feel their current 100,000 sq ft premises are just not big enough.

"Thanks to its 1960s design, the building is a bit too narrow," says Clive Boothman, director of Schroder Investment Management. "It might even be knocked down by the owners."

It is, however, unlikely that there will be an exodus to Canary Wharf. "The normal way of choosing offices is to put a pin in Cheapside and pick buildings a five-minute walk away," says Boothman.

COLIN CAMPBELL



Leaseholders in the elegant Pelham Crescent are disputing Smith's Charity's sale of the freehold of the estate to the Wellcome Trust last year.

The long and winding road to leasehold policy reform

The Government wants to tackle abuse but faces a fight says Sara McConnell

LAST autumn, the forthcoming Housing Bill looked set to be a low-key affair. The Government's main proposals were familiar to any follower of Conservative housing policy during the last 10 years: further extension of home ownership, further erosion of local authorities' direct role as landlords and empowerment for council tenants.

But, in the last two months, ministers and officials have been thrown into confusion by media revelations of widespread abuse by unscrupulous landlords of the system of long-leasehold tenure. Yesterday, just 24 hours before the Bill's publication, John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, was forced to respond to fierce criticism of the leasehold system by announcing a raft of amendments to the Bill.

Mr Gummer is attempting to reverse what campaigners say is a long history of exploitation. Flatowners who buy their homes on long leases frequently face large bills for service charges and repairs which can turn out to be unnecessary or shoddy. If they refuse to pay they are threatened with forfeiture of their lease and loss of their home. Leaseholders discover that their freehold has changed hands overnight without their knowledge. There is growing evidence that many landlords are ignoring rules which require them to offer leaseholders first refusal if the freehold is up for sale. Freeholds to blocks of flats on long leases change hands rapidly and cheaply at auction with leaseholders knowing nothing about it until the deal is done.

Even if landlords are in breach of the "first refusal" rule, they face no sanctions. Those trying to exercise their right to buy their freehold and manage their own affairs can find themselves thwarted by their landlord splitting the freehold, thus disqualifying leaseholders from buying. Mr Gummer is

proposing to block this method of disqualification by amending legislation. He has also put forward plans to give residents' associations greater powers to challenge unreasonable service charge bills. The law of forfeiture will be amended so that leaseholders who dispute service charges will not face forfeiture of their leases without establishing that it is "lawfully due". Landlords who sell on freeholds without giving leaseholders

in the block first refusal will be committing a criminal offence. In a further change, leaseholders may be able to enforce their rights at the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal instead of at court.

The Government's moves are likely to be welcomed by critics of leasehold but they are almost certain not to go nearly far enough. Campaigners such as the Campaign Against Residential Leasehold Abuse and the Labour Party want the Government to force landlords to give their leaseholders the right to manage their own property. Others, including the Leasehold Enfranchisement Association (LEA), want the removal of "marriage value" which landlords demand as compensation for selling the freehold.

All, however, want leasehold to be abolished in the long term and replaced by a standard system of

commonhold. Earlier this week, in a letter to officials at the Department of the Environment, Ron Armstrong, Council of Mortgage Lenders deputy director-general, said: "The long leasehold system is inherently and intrinsically defective, simply because it relies to a large extent on the goodwill of the landlord."

The Government is certain to face a hard fight at Westminster from landlords. But the Government was

apparently prepared to risk this rather than further endanger the future of home ownership, the bedrock of Tory housing policy. As the Leasehold Enfranchisement Association wrote recently to David Curry, Housing Minister: "Leasehold property is becoming increasingly difficult to sell. Who is going to buy into a situation where so-called 'homeowners' can be sold overnight from one landlord to another or come under control of the nightmare landlords?"

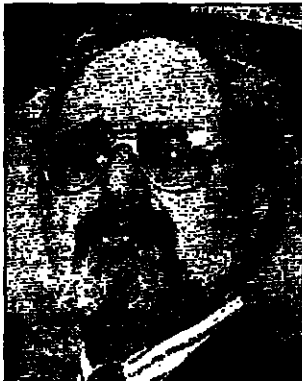
The housing boom of the late 1980s lent new urgency to leasehold abolition campaigns, as large numbers of Victorian houses, mainly in London and the South East, were converted into leasehold flats, and newly built flats were issued with their own long leases. Many new buyers discovered that they paid for repairs but had no control over the management of their home. The

value of the properties depreciated daily as the lease expiry date neared. At the same time, the lessees of a lot of older homes owned by the Great Estates of Central London were coming to an end. But rampant property inflation meant tenants could not afford the prices asked by ground landlords to renew their leases.

Three pieces of leasehold reform were passed in quick succession by the Tories in the teeth of opposition from landlords. The last, the Leasehold Reform and Urban Development Act of 1993, gave leaseholders the right to buy their freehold even if the landlord did not want to sell. But the Conservatives bowed to pressure from landlords and hedged the right round with so many qualifications that few have been able to buy.

Even if Mr Gummer's proposed amendments make it uncatchable through Parliament, landlords will not give up without a fight. Meanwhile thousands of leaseholders are struggling against exploitation. John Mitchell of the recently formed Campaign Against Residential Leasehold Abuse (CARLA) says he has 5,000 flats collectively worth £350 million where leaseholders are in dispute with the landlord. CARLA is concentrating on building up patterns and uncovering links between freehold companies.

Many of CARLA's members are what Mr Mitchell calls "Thatcher's children" who bought for the first time in the 1980s boom. But longstanding leaseholders living in the elegant porticoed areas of Smith's Charity's South Kensington estate, including Pelham Crescent, are also disputing Smith's sale of the freehold of the estate to the Wellcome Trust last year, on the grounds that they did not properly offer leaseholders first refusal of the freehold. Zipporah Mainwaring, a Smith's resident, is set to take on the charity in the courts next month.



Mitchell tackling disputes

Closing the competitiveness gap

Michael Heseltine says Richard Caborn, Labour's competitiveness spokesman, is ignoring the facts

HOW disappointing that Richard Caborn, in spite of having served as chairman of the Select Committee on Trade and Industry, should ignore so many of the facts in his article on the UK's competitiveness (*Business News*, January 12). Disappointing, because in his enthusiasm to damage the Government, he does a disservice to the record of British business over the past 15 years.

He argues that on virtually every level of national competitiveness the UK's ranking has fallen. His main evidence is a report by the World Economic Forum. That report is a dubious basis for international comparison. A third of its conclusions are based on a survey to which, on average, only 70 people per country responded. And those respondents based their judgments on some limited national perceptions. How many of your readers would expect, for example, that Colombia would come fourth in the world in terms of corporate boards safeguarding "proper practices"?

By the end of the 1970s, the British economy had been outperformed by the rest of the G7 for far too long. By 1979, our labour productivity in manufacturing, perhaps the key indicator of our industrial efficiency, was only two-thirds of Germany's and half that in the US. This was not of academic interest. In the long run, labour productivity and incomes go hand in hand.

Since the early 1980s, we have reversed this relative decline in productivity and closed a substantial part of the gap. From 1974 to 1979, manufacturing productivity grew by less than 1 per cent per annum. Since 1979, it has grown by 4.1 per cent per annum, compared with 1.9 per cent in Germany and 2.4 per cent in the US. We have done twice as well as Germany and 70 per cent better than the US.

During the 1980s, business investment in the UK as a proportion of GDP was second only to Japan among the G7 countries. Even in the subsequent recession, only Germany moved slightly ahead. There is, in fact, no relationship between the level



The Deputy Prime Minister wants more firms to follow the example of the best

of UK investment and dividends. Indeed, CBI surveys consistently show that the main determinants of investment are demand and rates of return — rather than shortages or the costs of finance. This underlines the importance of stable macroeconomic policies rather than legislative interference in the market.

Mr Caborn is whipping up anxiety over short-termism as a justification for extensive interference in the market economy. Policies that failed in the 1960s and 1970s, "regional investment schemes", "fiscal options", are dusted off. The only difference is that in a world where investment is now free to flow around the globe they are even more dangerous.

Our policies, in contrast, have worked. We have provided the conditions in which companies forge partnerships with their employees. The language of empowerment is heard in successful companies throughout Britain, not the language of industrial strife. That would not have come

about if we had legislated for a voice for employees on company boards as the Labour Party wants. It has come about because of our reforms of the labour market in the 1980s. In 1979, we lost 29 million man-days in strikes. In 1994, we lost a quarter of a million — the lowest level since records began 100 years ago. And, through our encouragement for employee shareholdings, employers have rewarded employees' performance with a genuine, tangible "stake" in the business.

We now want more firms to follow the example of the best. We have our poor performers. Every country does. But legislation is not the way to build trust and partnership in companies. The example and competition of those that are making the most of our reforms is a surer route to change.

In a global marketplace, skills, creativity and knowledge are essential to competitiveness. It is perhaps not well

enough understood just how far education and training have been transformed in the UK. In 1980, most young people abandoned formal learning at the first opportunity. Only one in eight went into higher education. Last year, 78 per cent of 17-year-olds remained in full-time education and one in three went on to higher education. We are well on course to meet our target of 25 per cent of 16-year-olds starting GNVQs in 1996. Modern and accelerated modern apprenticeships started throughout England at the end of last year.

While the improvement has been considerable we are not complacent. Just as firms must benchmark themselves against the best of the competition, so must we benchmark our policies and our national performance. That is why we published two White Papers on competitiveness in 1994 and 1995 and why last night I announced that a third White Paper would be published this summer. That White Paper will update our analysis of the

UK's position and bring forward new measures to help UK business to win world markets. We shall, for example, report on a major study of the level of skills in the UK. This will include a detailed analysis of how these match the needs of UK business and the skills and education of the workforce in our main competitors.

There are many indicators of competitiveness. One of the best is the extent to which we are able to attract multinational businesses that are free to choose where to invest. More than 4,000 inward investments have been made since 1979, creating and safeguarding 700,000 jobs. UK car production, for example, has increased by 600,000 since 1982, over half of which is due to Japanese investment. Japanese car plants are expected to increase production by a further quarter of a million vehicles by the turn of the century. And these investors have brought world class management practices to the UK and spread these throughout sectors that are performing badly.

Survey evidence shows that these companies come to the UK because we have the best environment for business in Europe. This has been achieved partly through deregulation, with more than 500 measures repealed so far under the deregulation initiative, not through legislation to fetter and direct corporate initiative.

For the last decade and a half, British business has closed the gap against some of the best, most innovative competition in the world. British industry, has, in short, done better than those Labour thinks are the best. That does not mean it has eradicated the postwar legacy, which is why we shall continue to seek greater competitiveness in every aspect of British economic performance.

But in the words of Jan Timmer, president of Philips: "The most competitive country in Europe today is the UK. It has a great sense of realism, a great sense of competitive spirit."

Future of Forte is balanced on a knife-edge

The outcome of Granada's hostile bid is too close to call. Eric Reguly reports

AS the battle for Forte enters its final hours, both sides insist they are confident of winning. Privately, they're scared.

Granada's brilliant attack has been countered by Forte's equally smart counter-attack and neither has an obvious advantage. There is no landslide in the making because Granada, conscious of value, has not offered a ludicrously high price. It appears that a fairly narrow margin will separate the victor from the vanquished when the votes are counted on Tuesday.

When Granada pitched its £3.3 billion bid on November 22, Forte appeared to be doomed. Granada's bid seemed well-deserved and, if anything, overdue. Forte's hotels and restaurants had taken a beating during the recession, forcing a dividend reduction, and the earnings and share performance had been underwhelming. Furthermore, the City felt that Sir Rocco Forte had landed in the chief executive's seat only because he was the son

of the empire's founder. But Sir Rocco managed to even the odds with a defence package that included an £800 million share buyback and a commitment to raise the dividend by 20 per cent a year for three years. He also struck a deal to sell Forte's roadside eateries to Whitbread for £1 billion.

Granada, not to be outdone, boosted its offer by £500 million by adding a cash dividend of 47p and, in a strategic reversal of its own, said it would unload Forte's Meridian and Exclusive hotel chains. That was on January 9. Since then, both sides have been exchanging insults, challenging each other's profit and gearing assumptions and provoking the Takeover Panel.

Only a tiny minority of institutions, most in the US, have shown their hand, signalling lack of confidence in both sides by selling their holdings in the open market for cash. The British institutions will determine the outcome, and they will be doing their sums today and over the weekend.

A vote in Granada's favour does not guarantee its victory, but Forte appears doomed if it goes that way.

From a strategic point of view, Granada and Forte present distinct options. Forte, shorn of its restaur-

rants and most of its mid-market hotels, will be a hotel player in the four-star and five-star sector. Shareholders will have to be convinced that luxury hotels are still on the upswing. A recent study by Pannell Kerr Foster Associates concluded: "We believe that the UK hotel industry has entered a period of strong growth in profits, which should continue for three or four years."

Granada would concentrate on budget hotels and restaurants. Their return on capital is higher than that of luxury hotels, and Granada argues that hotels with restaurants attached are less vulnerable to cyclical swings than stand-alone hotels. Since much of a hotel's profits come from catering, separating them makes no sense, it says.

From the management point of view, Granada has the edge. Gerry Robinson, chief executive, is regarded as something of a super-manager. The City is impressed by the profits he has teased out of Sutcliffe cater-

ing and London Weekend Television, and expect him to "sweat" Forte's assets with equal gusto. But Mr Robinson would also have to be adept at selling, finding

buyers for the Meridian and the Exclusive when there is a glut of upmarket hotels for sale, may not be easy and Forte, for one, is unconvinced that he can avoid a hefty capital gains tax.

As of yesterday, Granada could speak for 9.9 per cent of Forte's shares against the 8 per cent held by the Forte board and family. Many individual shareholders and some of the more conservative institutions, which typically back management in hostile fights, are likely to stick with Forte. If so, it can count on 20-30 per cent.

The rest is up for grabs and Mercury Asset Management, with about 15 per cent, is the most important. Carol Galley, the MAM official who will decide their strategy, meets Forte and Granada today. The meetings are bound to test Mr Robinson and Sir Rocco as she peppers them with questions about value.

Granada's favour does not guarantee its victory, but Forte appears doomed if it goes that way.



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Life offices fear pension mis-selling hurting sales

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

LLOYDS Abbey Life has announced a 14 per cent rise in new life business for 1995 but Legal & General and Britannic Assurance have seen sales fall amid public concern over pensions mis-selling.

Lloyds Abbey Life, the largest of the three, reported falls in regular premiums and unit trust sales but a rise of 36 per cent to £665.6 million of single premium business. Overall, new life premiums rose to £1.11 billion (£999.8 million).

Laurel Powers-Freeling, group financial director, said the rise was due in part to special offers in the first half of the year, and to "dramatically increased sales" through independent financial advisers.

Black Horse Financial Ser-

vices, a subsidiary of Lloyds Abbey Life, saw a significant drop in life business, down £6.7 million to £30 million. Pension sales rose by 6 per cent to £18.4 million.

Apart from the Securities and Investment Board investigation into pensions mis-selling, insurers have faced new rules on disclosure of charges, which many claim have lengthened the sales process.

Total new annual premiums at Britannic fell 15 per cent to £34.4 million (£40.36 million), and over 9 per cent at L&G to £97 million (£106 million). Brian Shaw, general manager and actuary, said business was worst hit at the beginning of the year, when the new rules on disclosure had the greatest impact.

"The public are still reluctant to buy life products and will continue to be until the SIB review has been completed," he added. L&G's UK group business saw a fall in new annual premiums of 6.4 per cent to £26.4 million, with lower levels of pension and group life new business partly offset by increased permanent health business. PEP and unit trust new business in the UK grew to £177.4 million from £105.4 million in 1994.

The group also announced it would declare a special bonus for its 1.4 million with-profits policyholders, which will be added to policies in March. Direct insurers are continuing to gain market share, particularly in motor insurance, according to a report by Goldman Sachs. Direct Line dominates the sector with more than two million policies, followed by Churchill, Royal Insurance and Freeland. In household insurance, the report predicts building societies and banks will be significant players.

NatPower to build £32m plant

NATIONAL POWER is to build a £32 million combined heat and power plant for BASF, the chemicals manufacturer, with a 15-year deal between the two for electricity and steam from the plant (Christine Buckley writes).

The gas-fired plant, which will be built to environmentally friendly specifications, will have an electricity output of 75 megawatts. It will be sited at BASF's complex at Seal Sands, Teesside.

National Power is the market leader in industrial CHP plants and has £114 million in nine contracts which provide 200 megawatts of power.



Laverstoke House, home of the 'fabulous freebie', has been sold by De la Rue to Jody Scheckter, the former motor racing driver, for £4.25 million

Formula One great buys Laverstoke

By RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

JODY SCHECKTER, the former South African racing driver, has bought the £4.25 million Laverstoke House and Park in Hampshire from De la Rue, the printing company. The sale has rid its owners of an embarrassing hidden asset which emerged during its takeover bid of Portals.

In the months running up to De la Rue's £716.7 million takeover bid, it came to light that Julian Sheffield, the former chairman of Portals, was living at the yellow brick, classical Hampshire house set in 3,200 acres.

The arrangement whereby Mr Sheffield paid the running costs of the house but no rent was dubbed the "fabulous freebie" in the business press.

Savills, the agent, sold 3,200 acres of surrounding farmland in a separate lot to a local farmer, bringing the total value of the sale to £9.625 million. The estate, next to the hamlet of Freefolk, just past Overton, near Basingstoke, was built between 1796 and 1798 for Henry Portal by Joseph Bonomi, the influential Italian architect.

Mr Sheffield has continued to live at the house, because De la Rue has been honouring the arrangement he had with Portals, a De la Rue spokesman said. He is expected to move out later this year.

Mr Scheckter, 55, won the Formula One world championship with Ferrari in 1979, and last raced in 1980.

HSBC hit by \$42m fraud

HSBC's Hongkong Bank has been the victim of a \$42 million fraud in its branch in Jakarta, Indonesia, the bank said yesterday (writes Patricia Tehan). It is believed to involve fake telegraphic transfers from Swiss Bank and Deutsche Bank.

HSBC said its financial controls revealed the fraud on January 3 and reported it to Bank Indonesia, local police, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and the Bank of England. The bank believes the fraud occurred before Christmas, and "has no material effect on the financial standing of Hongkong Bank or HSBC Holdings".

Air traffic scheme faces 9-month delay

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

A £350 million air traffic control centre intended to ease congestion in the skies above Britain will be at least nine months late because the US computers are not compatible with the British-made radars.

The Civil Aviation Authority has now launched an inquiry into the problem and the delay which threatens to put intolerable strain on the existing air traffic control centre at West Drayton.

A spokesman said: "We will have a clearer picture of what can be done to solve the problem and when the centre will be able to become operational by the end of January when the review is completed." The delay is embarrassing

for the CAA which said that the new centre at Swanwick, near Southampton, was vital immediately if the fast growing number of aircraft flying across UK airspace was to be handled safely.

The buildings to house the new centre are complete, but the computers to run the 150 radar screens, capable of safely shepherding more than a million aircraft a year across Britain, cannot be made to function properly.

"There is some difficulty in integrating the software packages together," said a CAA spokesman. "It is a very complex system and it is not surprising there are difficulties along the way."

GrandMet success in Brent law suit

Grand Metropolitan, the food and drinks company, has scored a small victory in its legal battle with Brent Walker, the leisure group, over the sale of William Hill, the bookmaker, in 1989.

GrandMet launched a court case last summer seeking to determine what interpretation should be placed on documents associated with the £685 million sale to Brent Walker. The two parties have been in dispute since 1990 over the terms of the sale, with Brent Walker claiming a substantial reduction in the purchase price because it believes it was misled by GrandMet over the level of profitability at William Hill.

A High Court judge ruled yesterday that the original agreement over the sale should be rectified, a ruling which favours GrandMet because it largely supports its interpretation of the documents.

Brent Walker responded by stating that it is waiting for the full text of the agreement before deciding whether to appeal.

TI subsidiary wins contract

TI Group, the UK engineering company, said its John Crane engineered seals division has won its largest contract, worth £70 million over a five-year period, for the supply of seals for ultra high vacuum applications in the semiconductor industry. Applied Materials Inc, a California manufacturer of equipment for the production of integrated circuits, has placed the order with John Crane Belfast, which is located in Florida.

P&O role for Galpin

Rodney Galpin has been appointed a non-executive director of P&O, the construction and cruising group, while Peter Rauliffe, the president of Princess Cruises, and Robert Woods, managing director of P&O Containers, become executive directors. Michael Gradon, the group's legal director, will succeed John Crossman, who retires on June 30 as company secretary. Philip Warner, a director and chairman of Bovis Homes, will also retire on June 30.

Heiton ahead at half time

Heiton Holdings, the Irish builders merchant, steel supplier and homecare retailer, lifted pre-tax profits to £15.3 million from £12.7 million in the half-year to October 31. Turnover increased to £166.1 million from £161.5 million. Earnings per share were up to 15.36p from 15.72p and the interim dividend is lifted 18.75 per cent to 10.95p a share.

Mayne to sell UK division

Mayne Nickless, the Australian transport, security and healthcare group, is seeking a buyer for its UK armoured car division, which trades under the names of Security Express and Armaguard (UK). The division has 52 branches and employs more than 2,800 people. The business has a book value of about £6.89 million.

Bank of Ireland Base Rate

Bank of Ireland announces that with effect from close of business on 19th January 1996 its Base Rate has decreased from 6.50% to 6.25%



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Tottenham's game plan may bring rights issue

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR is to pay its first interim dividend for more than three years as the club moves to woo institutional investors in a game plan that could signal a rights issue.

Tottenham is keen to bring in more heavyweight funds, but despite growing City confidence it has to contend with illiquid shares, as a large proportion are held by fans whose investment is made more for loyalty than financial gain. They tend not to sell, or sell in insufficient amounts to interest institutions.

A rights issue could bring in a substantial draft of new resources, but the company must find a reason to call on the money. The building of a new stand — it still has to



Sugar: interims again

develop the north stand at an estimated cost of about £6 million — would be suitable but much depends on the club's performance in the last part of the season and on its

run in the FA Cup. John Sedgwick, finance director, said a new stand must be justified. "Capacity would rise by about three to four thousand. We have to be getting capacity gates ahead of that."

Alan Sugar, the chairman, tempered the half-year results to the end of November by reporting the wages bill had risen and that the trend would continue. Pre-tax profits were flattered by the sale of players including Nick Barmby, who fetched £5.2 million. Tottenham also negotiated new four-year contracts with star players Teddy Sheringham and Darren Anderson.

Pre-tax profits rose to £7.13 million from £2.06 million. The interim dividend will be paid on February 23.

Times, page 26

Property hits French water group

PROBLEMS in the property market will push Compagnie Générale des Eaux, the biggest water distribution company in the world, into a loss of between FF3 billion £400 million) and FF3.5 billion for 1995, it was revealed yesterday.

The company said results would recover sharply this year with the help of asset

sales. Profits would be in line with figures of recent years "despite a particularly gloomy economic climate".

Losses and provisions in the property division would amount to about FF7 billion. Prospects this year were brighter because the company was attacking foreign markets aggressively, had restructured its property interests, had

reformed its construction business and was selling assets. In Britain the company owns North Surrey Water, Three Valleys, Folkestone & Dover and Tendring Hundred and has a stake in South Staffs. It has also launched a joint bid for Mid Kent Water.

In 1994 net profits rose 4.5 per cent to FF3.35 billion on sales up 5.8 per cent to FF156 billion.

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Strong advance in buoyant trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	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THE TIMES UNID TRUST INFORMATION

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هكذا من الأصل



■ FILM

Me, tied down? Well, perhaps. The new, mature Pedro Almodóvar talks about his latest movie



■ THEATRE

Martin Shaw gives the performance of his life in a superb staging of Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ MIME

The pain and pleasure of multiracial existence are laid out in *Dirty Reality II*



■ TOMORROW

Working with Kurt Weill: a musical genius recalled by his last surviving collaborator

Sex? Kitsch? That's over now

FILM: No more celebrations of hedonism from Pedro Almodóvar. Or so the Spanish maverick tells Julia Llewellyn Smith

In Pedro Almodóvar's latest film, *The Flower of My Secret*, no one is raped, no one dresses up in gold lame fishnet stockings, no one takes drugs and no one finds an untoward use for a Black & Decker. This may come as a disappointment to those people who have enjoyed such scenes in his earlier films and have come to depend on the Spanish film director for their annual homage to sex, kitsch and hedonism.

Almodóvar is, after all, the man whose first film, *Pepi, Luci, Bom* (1980), featured a heroine who urinates on the head of a police sergeant's wife during a knitting class and goes on to make a fortune selling fast-food knickers. His most recent offering, *Kika*, featured a 12-minute rape scene played for laughs.

Such excesses have done his career no harm. Almodóvar is the most commercially successful director Spain has ever produced. At home, he has grown from a hero of the post-Franco underground into a national institution. Spanish culture was repressive, macho and Catholic. Almodóvar's films were frothy, camp and unashamedly devoted to the cult of the individual. In Spain, teenage

girls faint in his presence, a new film is awarded the attention due to a royal wedding and there is even an adjective *almodovariano* to describe the quirky and the surreal.

Abroad, he has outgrown his cult status to become one of the few commercially viable non-English speaking directors. His hyperactive comedy *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* was the most successful foreign film of 1989 and won an Oscar nomination. Hollywood bought the rights and Sally Field, Jane Fonda and Whoopi Goldberg fought for the lead role. Yet even the 45-year-old director was unprepared for the critical scorn, the feminist outrage and the battles with the American censors that accompanied the likes of *Tie Me Up, Tie Me Down*, where a bound and gagged woman falls in love with her captor.

Just as the masses were beginning to lose patience with melodrama that seemed no longer subversive but merely smutty, along comes *The Flower of My Secret* — a tender, understated drama about a middle-aged woman who has teetered over the verge into full-scale breakdown.

Flower, made under the more appropriate — if somewhat wordy — working title *Is There Any Chance, However Small, of Saving What We Had*, is bereft of trashy trappings. What remains are the elements that made Almodóvar's earlier, and best, films much more than soft-porn juvenilia: an instinctive sympathy for women, an understanding of the nature of obsessive passion and a cinematic homage to Madrid. There

is even a little tribute to the regenerative power of going back to one's roots, which for Almodóvar means the small village in the rural backwaters of La Mancha, where he says he felt like "an astronaut at the Court of King Arthur".

Today, however, La Mancha would not give this clown-faced man a second glance. The punk singer, who wowed the avant-garde of Madrid in the frenzied years after Franco's death, has mellowed into a chubby 45-year-old in jeans and a striped jumper. Instead of spiking your coffee with amphetamines, Almodóvar is earnestly polite, and blushes easily. "When people approach me for the first time, they are always surprised," he says. "The image that they have in advance doesn't correspond with what they see. People think that I am more crazy than I am."

Regrettably, yet inevitably Almodóvar has grown up. And the new, mature phase heralded by *Flower* does him credit. It is a generous, painful and wise film and the critics adore it. Almodóvar grimaces at the word mature. "Unfortunately, it's true," he sighs. "It doesn't sound well, but you can't avoid maturing. What attracted me in this film was to explain profound emotions in the most sober way. It is talking about simple things that are at the same time very complicated."

So has Almodóvar been won over by the back-to-basics lobby and discovered, as the La Mancha scenes might indicate, that there is no place like home? "No," he replies. "I don't like La Mancha. It's a very conservative region and in my life I have always tried to fight against that mentality."

"What I was looking at is how, when a person is really lost, she needs to return to her roots. My heroine, Leo, has lost her husband, her career and has been about to lose her life. Now she needs to recognise two or three basic things, before she can return to Madrid to fight."

Like all Almodóvar heroines, Leo (played movingly by Marisa Paredes) is a multi-faceted character that any actress would kill to play. "I like women who suffer as a subject. I like everything about Leo that most men would think of as a flaw. She has this total sensibility, fragility and courage. She talks a lot, she says what she feels, she defends what she loves."

It is impossible to imagine such a character in a Hollywood confection and, interestingly, the only actor from the Almodóvar stable to succeed in America has been Antonio Banderas, the bespectacled geek in *Women and Now* Sylvester Stallone's sidekick. Meanwhile, the Almodóvar



In his element: Pedro Almodóvar with the cast of his *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*

chicas — who include his muse Carmen Maura, Rosy de Palma and Victoria Abril — have yet to achieve international acclaim.

Fortunately, Almodóvar is aware of the restraints a big studio would place on his work. How does he feel about the remake of *Women? "Anxious,"* he says instantly, his face crumpled with worry. "I hope this version will be worse than mine. Friends say I should be horrified that my work has been taken over by Hollywood, but really, now I have sold the rights, I don't mind. I am curious to see how they manage with

the material. It's like recycling paper, the fact that a script can generate other things is very interesting."

Nevertheless, the time has come to leave Madrid. "I am too successful in Spain and it creates envy," he says. "I am too famous to go anywhere without attracting attention. I don't know where I will go — maybe Italy. I like London but my actors will never work in this grey light."

There is no prospect, however, of a European tour. Almodóvar is as Spanish as a straw donkey and intends to remain so. "My government want to make us homogenous with other

European countries," he says, looking pained. "That means no siesta, no going out at night, no paella, which basically means not being Spanish. It means being the same as someone in Oslo, which is very fine, but it's not for me."

Nor does it mean that the *bon vivant* has renounced his ways. "Don't worry," he says, consolingly. "I will definitely be making more baroque films. The fun and sex is not over yet."

● *Flower of My Secret* opens in Britain next Friday, and will be reviewed on Thursday

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale sees Wilde and eats humble pie. Plus, prejudice confronted through mime

Hall-marked by humanity

An Ideal Husband
Haymarket

Up to three years ago I had thought Wilde's *Ideal Husband* an unwieldy mix of melodrama, epigram, mildly liberal propaganda and the kind of blatant stage trickery customary in what the 19th century laughably misnamed "the well-made play". But then Peter Hall staged the piece in the West End and I had to recant. Now he has revived it with an almost identical cast and almost identical result. I find I must go further. The correct attire for yours truly was sackcloth and ashes, given the humanity and humour Sir Peter has found in the play.

Years ago, Sir Robert Chiltern made a killing from selling a Cabinet secret to a foreign billionaire, and is now on the brink of Cabinet membership himself. Enter that figure so beloved of late-Victorian dramatists, the siren with the louché past, Mrs Cheveley has a compromising letter and will wreck the statesman's career if he does not lend his support to a shady deal in banana-republic South America. Worse, her revelations will imperil his marriage to Gertrude, who makes it clear that her devotion to him depends on her faith in the seamlessness of his virtue.

The play was staged while Queensberry was harassing Wilde, and precipitately with-

drawn just after the dramatist's arrest. You only have to shut your eyes for a moment, and imagine that Chiltern's indiscretion is sexual rather than financial, to see the parallels between him and the man who ended up exposed, ruined and thrust into the stormy maw of Reading Gaol. The plot had a particular frisson in the 1890s, and has a more general one in the 1990s.

But how to disguise the fact that in some ways both form and content are pretty dated? The denouement depends on the accidental discovery of a brooch the villainess has stolen, by the very man who years before bought it. And if you were to feed Germaine Greer the stuff about women's "emotional curves" being unimportant beside men's "wider scope", she would have it and you for breakfast.

Well, Hall and his cast have done more disguising than I had believed possible. They make light of the play's melodrama and bring weight to its comedy. Counterparts of Anna Carteret's Mrs Cheveley, with her creamy charm, and David Yelland's wintry Chiltern with his tense smiles, may be found politely destroying each other



Penny Downie as Lady Chiltern, Anna Carteret as the louché Mrs Cheveley, Martin Shaw as Lord Goring

in politics or business today. And Penny Downie even manages to find warmth in Gertrude's seeming coldness. High minded but unself-knowing, she has construed her love for Chiltern as respect for his integrity and somewhere inside herself is not sorry to see the mistake corrected. The icy wife is, after all, a real woman.

But the evening's performance comes from Martin Shaw as Robert's friend and rescuer, the dandy and wit Lord Goring. His full, florid

voice, face, wig and cravat all seem designed to evoke Wilde himself; but, as it turns out, less Wilde the poseur and paradoxist than Wilde the enemy of the rigid and frigid. In his wry, reproachful way he makes you feel there is something stalwart behind his flippancy and wise in the flippancy itself. His aim is to rid that microcosm of flawed Victorian virtue, the Chilterns' house, of lies, self-deception, intolerance and grief. What could be more authentically Wildean than that?

Discordant view of racial harmony

Dirty Reality II
Cochrane, WCI

Black Mime Theatre, celebrating its tenth year under Denise Wong's pioneering and skilled directorship, is enriching the Mime Festival with its latest bold piece about cross-colour relationships and children of mixed race growing up in Britain.

This short show manages to span the ages of Man (and Woman) and black history, intercutting glimpses of children's homes, the slave trade, school playgrounds and teenage discos from which develop adult partnerships and another generation.

While embracing the potential for passionate love and harmony between blacks and whites, *Dirty Reality II* confronts the prejudices on both sides and the cultural schizophrenia, social isolation and suicides these can cause.

Stylistically this piece, devised by the company in association with Nottingham Playhouse, is a mix. One scene flows into another. A cappella song overlaps speech. Drama, dance and mime merge.

The show does get off to a slow start. The soundbites taken from phone-ins and political forums on black identity and self-appreciation which are replayed, scratch-style, across the empty stage, become protracted. It also takes time to make sense of the five performers' mimed ac-

tions and expressionistic choreography.

But we soon become fluent in the language of the piece. Material simplicity, without props, combined with complex symbolic significance. A quick whiting-up with face paint suggests both black cultural submission and tribal masks.

Stuart Pampellone's springing, lashing solo dance simultaneously conveys anger and exuberant liberation. The cast shuffle forward uncertainly but with a sporadic hurling motion that hints at a street riot.

The work is provocative and sometimes distressing with, one suspects, personal experience underlying the acting. Yet the cast are, just as often, frankly sexy and funny, a multi-talented ensemble with distinct physical styles. Tall Mojola Adebayo, after her broad clown of a matron at the racially repressive children's home, changes into an upsetting little girl trying to scratch away her brown skin.

Meanwhile, small Marva Alexander can switch from a funky teenybopper to an absurdly waddling grandma in a twinkling.

KATE BASSETT

Stripped of the schmaltz

Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie/
Sanderling
QEH

On the face of it, it was a bizarre idea to open their second concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall with the Adagio from Mahler's Fifth Symphony. How would the elegant soundtrack of Visconti's *Death in Venice* fare with the chamber forces of 19 strings and a harp?

Perhaps it was precisely to free the movement of its decadent associations that it was treated thus. The knowledge that the Adagio was actually intended as a love-song for the composer's wife, Alma, has led to a clutch of revisionist interpretations. Stefan Sanderling's, with the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie, came in at ten minutes — closer to the traditional readings of Barbirolli, Bernstein and Haitink than to Gilbert Kaplan's fifty-eight minutes.

Much as one welcomed, in principle, the unsentimentality of Sanderling's approach, it did raise nagging doubts. Individual phrases were stretched and pulled, but where was the over-arching line of which they should have formed part? The music does not have to drip with emotion, but surely a love-song can be allowed to exude Weltschmerz as well as passion.

With one composer each from Germany, Poland, France, Russia and America, the programme was a whistle-stop tour of the northern hemisphere. The Polish representative was Lutoslawski, whose *Five Dance Preludes* were given a spirited performance by the American clarinetist Richard Stoltzman.

Bounding and bobbing about the stage like an over-

excited wind-up toy, Stoltzman even freezes mid-flight when bringing off the teasingly abrupt endings of movements. He turns to individual instrumentalists to engage in dialogue, and plays with great character. And if the tone is thin and reedy by some standards, it comes into its own with plangent cadences such as those of the Andante.

Stoltzman can produce a silky, creamy tone too, as he showed in the subtly eloquent opening movement of Aaron Copland's *Clarinet Concerto*. The soloist, suspended between sonorous strings enhanced by harp and piano, was beautifully realised, while at the other end of the work the jazzy swoops and shrieks were executed with dazzling aplomb.

The choice of Prokofiev's showpiece, the *Classical Symphony*, may have been unwise. Not only was less-than-perfect ensemble revealed here, but Sanderling's sluggish tempo for the first movement and his heavy-handedness generally made for a neo-classical romp fatally short on wit and style.

Poulenc's *Sinfonietta*, though a slighter work, was more successful, delivered as it was with effervescent gaiety and seductive grace.

BARRY MILLINGTON

A silent ovation

Philharmonia/
Zander
Barbican

Benjamin Zander, like most conductors in the United States, is hot on verbal as well as musical communication. His performance of Mahler's Ninth Symphony with the Philharmonia was preceded by a full hour's talk; and, in place of programme notes, which Mahler abhorred anyway, there was a long and wise essay of his own.

The real communication began, though, when the baton was raised. Zander, now founder-director of the Boston Philharmonia, made his mark on British audiences for the first time last year in Mahler's Sixth at the Barbican. And to welcome him back to wonder how we ever lost him: for this fine conductor is British born and bred until Harvard wooed him.

In physical precision and metaphysical vision he has filled the gap left by Klaus Tennstedt in his illness. Yet temperamentally, Zander seems to share more with Sir Colin Davis. He does not live on the music's nerves but rather, broadly and far-sightedly, through its emotions, shaped by the music's breath and pulse. I should love to watch him rehearse to see how he obtained that veiled valediction to song in the voices of second violins and cellos in the symphony's opening; to track his work balancing so finely for many equal and individual voices in this least-instrumentally hierarchical of scores.

The second movement, that petrified *Ländler* from a dying Vienna, was minutely imagined in its every twitch of movement and sound. Zander's pacing left it with just enough of a swing to seem a real dance, even if this was a dance of death.

The Rondo-burleske which follows can sound more menacing than the Philharmonia allowed it to on Wednesday. But the clarity and the deceptive lilt of Zander's tempo released its own strange joy, one that revealed only the horrors of happiness. The packed Barbican Hall held its breath at the start of the final adagio. Here was a near perfect transition of pace, timbre, and dynamics from the opening, agonised violins' sigh to that great abode-within-me of a chorale which dominates the movement.

As shadows of the *Wunderhorn* songs and of *Ullrich* flicker on Mahler's earlier symphonies the listener is left in no doubt — from verbal recollection alone — that this is the loneliness of the soul which is speaking. As its physical life fades in the last bars, the Philharmonia played with the concentration of the finest of chamber ensembles. And even when bow and baton had given the licence for applause, there was the deepest, longest silence this hall may have ever heard.

HILARY FINCH

'Dazzling farce'

Guardian

Hysteria

Terry Johnson's

'custard pie of comic brilliance'

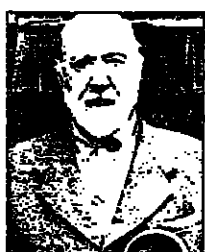
Theatrical

Best Comedy

Official Award

Duke of York's 011 846 5122

Must close 27 January



CHOICE 1

A BBC festival celebrates the pioneering music of Charles Ives

VENUE: Tonight to Sunday at the Barbican



CHOICE 2

The wacky Björk brings her wild compendium of styles to Britain

VENUE: On tour; see below for details



CHOICE 3

Cleo Laine and John Dankworth take a nostalgic journey in Cardiff

VENUE: Tonight at St David's Hall



POP 1

The cult for "easy listening" gets worse: now Burt Bacharach is marketed for a new generation

LONDON

IVES'S GENIUS The BBC spends this weekend celebrating Charles Ives, the American composer whose music was long considered too difficult to perform. The festival includes a series of recordings, a book, and a CD. The festival is a celebration of Ives's music, which is now being rediscovered by a new generation of listeners.

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

CARDIFF Jazz goes: Cleo Laine and John Dankworth bring a nostalgic journey in Cardiff. The duo will perform a selection of their classic songs, including "The Look of Love" and "Walk On By".

SHEFFIELD

THE BIRDS The band returns to the stage with a new album. The band's music is a blend of rock and roll, and they are known for their energetic live performances.

SOUTHAMPTON

THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO The musical returns to the stage. The story is based on the novel by Alexandre Dumas, and it tells the story of a man who is wrongfully imprisoned and escapes to seek revenge.

LONDON GALLERIES

THE NATIONAL GALLERY The gallery is open from 10am to 6pm. The gallery is a collection of paintings, and it is one of the most important art institutions in the world.

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What the world needs now

Is Burt Bacharach the ultimate hip icon for the 1990s?
Alan Jackson tunes in to the daddy of easy listening



Man of the moment Burt Bacharach has a devoted fan in Noel Gallagher of Oasis

One of the first records I can ever recall hearing was the Jack Jones version of *Wives and Lovers*. It is a song you rarely hear in these days of comparative sexual equality but, back in the early 1960s, nobody seemed to think it strange that a man with a bad haircut and a shiny suit should feel empowered to advise housewives to comb their hair and fix their make-up, then run to the door the moment that hardworking hubby came home to them. "For every day there are girls at the office," warned the impossibly urbane-sounding Jones. "And men will always be men..."

That lyric, written by Hal David to complement Burt Bacharach's gloriously breezy melody, says as much about gender roles in the era as any sociological treatise — and, of course, far more concisely. At the time though, any such import was lost on me, a six-year-old in Midlands suburbia; instead, it spoke to me of cool sophistication, of a necessarily American world peopled by Doris Day and Rock Hudson lookalikes who drove chrome-laden cars and lived in airy low-rise luxury. As did many of the other songs that floated out across the garden from my mother's radio in those warm-weather days of early childhood.

On the *Street Where You Live* by Peggy Lee. *Fly Me to the Moon* by Frank Sinatra. *Theme from a Summer Place* by Percy Faith... how potent they all sounded. Within months, the Beatles would release *She Loves You*, which our neighbours' teenage son spun endlessly on a bedroom Danette, and the focus of popular culture would rocket instantly back across the Atlantic from Los Angeles and to Liverpool. But not before my imagination had been captured by the vodka-martini world of American middle-of-the-road. A spell had been cast which, subsequently, I have never quite had the heart or will to break.

Which is why, when idly grazing the silent television channels earlier this week, it was the image of the Mike Flowers Pops which finally caused me to sit down, turn up the sound and pay full attention. For here, alongside three latterday Ladybirds (for the benefit of younger readers, that trio of backing singers — the middle one defiantly bespectacled — dusted off whenever an act needed vocal support on early-period *Top of the Pops*), was the crown prince of the current easy-listening revival crooning Bricusse & Newley's *The Candy Man* with the aural equivalent of a knowing wink and an ironically raised eyebrow. What a disappointment.

The juxtaposition of styles has given a frisson of surprise to, and made compelling, his MOR versions of *Wonderwall* by Oasis and *Venus as a Boy* by Björk. Here he seemed little more than a novelty act though — a man in a nylon-look wig and period clothing, mugging to the camera in a broad pastiche of the musical past. And that meant his performance was lacking the one ingredient which, as any true aficionado will tell you, is vital to good easy-listening music — sincerity. "It may appear kitsch from the outside but everyone involved takes it very seriously indeed," insists A&M Records' Penny Fisher at a youth cult that worships at

such shrines as the Indigo Club or Swinging Safari in London, and at World of Cheese in Bristol. She is responsible for the press campaign to launch *The Look of Love*, a 23-track celebration of Bacharach's art which includes such classics of the genre as Dionne Warwick's *Walk On By*, Gene Pitney's *24 Hours from Tulsa* and Herb Alpert's *This Guy's in Love with You*. And instead of targeting media oldsters who were around at the time when such songs first became hits, she has found herself fielding requests for interviews with the songwriter from a range of specialist clubland and dance magazines.

"For them, easy listening is not just the latest vogue — it's a new way of life," she claims. "It's all about showbiz attitude. It's about sequins, cocktails and cabaret. It's about going to a civilised venue where you can relax and meet other people — not some greasy club where you're packed shoulder to shoulder and the music is so loud that you can't speak to anyone." Young people dressing smartly and trading small talk to the sound of Sergio Mendes and Brazil '66 or the Sandpipers... can it possibly be true? Although it will be anathema to a parental generation which fought for its right to party and still requires a nostalgic fix of adult-orientated rock, the

fact is that those stations currently notching up the fastest growth in their percentage of 15 to 24-year-old listeners include cosy old Radio 2 and the as yet southeast-only Melody FM. "Glamour is back in fashion," notes Melody's managing director, Sheila Porritt. "Grunge is long gone. Now people are tiring of standing about in trainers clutching bottles of mineral water. They need a more environmental kind of music to enhance the new mood." The retro clothes fashions that inevitably accompany the movement have given it a rather camp surface gloss. But the best easy listening — the very term unhelpfully suggests something inherently unchallenging — is not all

It's all about showbiz — sequins, cocktails and cabaret?

style without substance. At its heart is writing craftsmanship able to survive repeated interpretation in a variety of different artists.

Noel Gallagher will need more than just the patronage of Mike Flowers for his output to be assured the longevity of the Lennon & McCartney or Bacharach & David songbooks. But the inclusion of a Bacharach poster within the room set featured on the cover of the first Oasis album and Gallagher's respectful presence on the BBC's recent film biography of the 57-year-old American suggests that he aspires towards a similar refinement of skill. "If I could write a song as good as *This Guy's in Love with You*, I'd die a happy man," he told the camera, one of a series of homages rewarded by a reported interest from Bacharach in writing with his younger devotee. Such a collaboration could take Britpop off in an interesting new direction, and might require Gallagher to develop the kind of slacks-and-sports-coat suave sported by the veteran tunesmith in all his promotional photographs from the 1960s.

It could also pave the way for a Jack Jones revival. Only the lyrics to *Wives and Lovers* could get in the way of that ultimate in critical rehabilitations.

● The Look of Love: The Classic Songs of Burt Bacharach is re-released by A&M on January 29

NEW RELEASES

DANGEROUS MINDS (15) Michael's Pictorial brings home to us the story of a schoolboy who is kidnapped. The film is a thriller, and it is a very good one. It is a story of a schoolboy who is kidnapped, and it is a very good one. It is a story of a schoolboy who is kidnapped, and it is a very good one.

CINEMA GUIDE

THE UNDERMATH (15) The classic 40s noir film, directed by Otto Preminger. The film is a thriller, and it is a very good one. It is a story of a schoolboy who is kidnapped, and it is a very good one. It is a story of a schoolboy who is kidnapped, and it is a very good one.

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ENTERTAINMENTS

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هكذا من الأصل



POP 2

Tori Amos puts her turbulent life into bleak lyrics on her latest album, *Boys for Pele*



POP 3

... and Frank Black mixes grunge and punk to abrasive effect on *The Cult of Ray*

THE TIMES POP ARTS



POP 4

... but time may be running out for the 44-year-old Paul Carrack to make his mark



POP 5

From Robert Palmer and Little Richard to Blur: *The White Room* returns in style

NEW ALBUMS: David Sinclair suffers for Tori Amos's art but finds no holes in the Bucketheads

Bad case of primal therapy

TORI AMOS
Boys for Pele
(eastwest 7561-82862)

A BLEAK, craggy monument to the emotional turbulence in Tori Amos's life, *Boys for Pele* redefines the concept of the "difficult" third album. Conceived amid the break-up of her eight-year relationship (romantic and professional) with producer Eric Rosse, it was mostly written during the singer's last tour.

Less than a third of the 18 tracks accommodate a full rhythm section and the austere arrangements are dominated by Amos's alternately thunderous and tinkling piano parts and heavily mannered singing. A courtly harpsichord is featured on several songs, along with occasional touches of strings, harmonium, bagpipes, church bells and a couple of cameo performances by the Black Dyke Mills (brass) Band. But despite these odd dashes of instrumental colour, the album's pulse remains stiff and ungainly, its tone charmless and cheerless throughout.

While rarely making much sense, Amos's lyrics sometimes resonate with dark sexual connotations, as on *Blood Roses* and *Professional Widow* (a song apparently about Courtney Love). But more often the words simply spill out like seeds in the wind ("I need some voodoo on these prunes": "Congratulate you said you had a double tongue balancing cake and bread").

Conventional verse-chorus structures and tunes are largely abandoned in favour of convoluted, open-ended pieces, enabling Amos to give full rein to her extended bouts of primal wailing. It might work as therapy or revenge, but why take it out on us?

FRANK BLACK
The Cult of Ray
(Epic 481647)

WOEFULLY under-valued even when 1990s-style American rock 'n' roll was the flavour of the moment, Frank Black remains an awkward and stubborn customer. Com-

bining the abrasive characteristics of grunge with the speedy thrill of punk, yet somehow contriving to fit into neither camp, *The Cult of Ray* is his third solo album since the demise of the Pixies.

Although a gifted songwriter who wants to sell "lots and lots of records", he does not make things easy for himself. Resolutely unromantic ("My heart is just a muscle in a cavity") and invariably sticking to the old punk maxim that you do not hang around once you have made your point, he tends to throw away ideas in the rush to get on.

The fast, chunky chord sequences of *Men in Black* and *Dance War* shoot past pleasantly enough and a couple of instrumental tracks make a welcome change. And every so often there are those flashes of wry genius — such as the sensational rocker *You Ain't Me* and the untypically sensitive *I Don't Want to Hurt You* — that make it all worthwhile. The overall result is a victory on points, if not the knockout punch that was intended.

THE BUCKETHEADS

All in the Mind (Henry Street Music/Positiva) MORE of an alias than a group, the Bucketheads are basically Kenny "Dope" Gonzalez, a 25-year-old whiz-kid producer from New York, previously better known as one half of the cult DJ/remix duo Masters at Work. That was until last year when, trading as the Bucketheads, Gonzalez enjoyed a British Top Five hit with *The Bomb!* (These Sounds Fall into my Mind), an infectious dance-floor groove stitched together from samples of an old Chicago track called *Streetslayer*.

The debut Bucketheads album, *All in the Mind*, successfully extends the basic principle of *The Bomb!* to album length. Cleverly combining mechanised rhythm tracks, bass loops and spacey house effects with straight, jazz-rock samples, Gonzalez creates vibrant, 1990s grooves from the reassuringly ancient



Too many kooks: Tori Amos apparently needs "some voodoo on her prunes", but why does she think we need some too?

sounds of horns and guitars. The result is a hip, modern dance experience with soul.

PAUL CARRACK
Blue View
(IRS/EMI 8 36679)

HIS was the voice on hits by Ace (*How Long*) and Squeeze (*Tempted*), and he remains the lead singer with Mike & the Mechanics. But five albums down the line, and 44-year-old

Paul Carrack is still struggling to establish a solo identity.

At his best Carrack can produce a song such as *Somebody in Your Heart*, a delectable, soul-blues stroll that could belong on a Robert Cray album. But for the most part, as on the single *Eyes of Blue* and a sturdy reworking of *How Long*, he steers unadventurously along the middle of the road.

1	(What's the Story) Morning Glory?	Oasis (Creation)
2	Robson & Jerome	Robson & Jerome (RCA)
3	Different Class	Pulp (Island)
4	History	Michael Jackson (Epic)
5	Jagged Little Pill	Alanis Morissette (Maverick)
6	Said And Done	Boyz n the Hood (Polydor)
7	Something To Remember	Madonna (Maverick)
8	Power Of A Woman	Eternal (EMI)
9	The Memory Of Trees	Enya (WEA)
10	CrazySexyCool	TLC (Laface)

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Rockin' on the box

As *The White Room* returns, pop on TV has never looked healthier

TOMORROW night sees the return of *The White Room* to Channel 4 (11.10pm) and no matter how it fares this time, the very fact of its continued existence is a triumph of sorts. After all, not many pop television shows in recent memory have made it as far as a second series.

According to Waldemar Januszczak, the commissioning editor for arts and music at Channel 4, until *The White Room* the network had not had a successful music show since *The Tube* in the early 1980s. "Friday Night at the Dome, *Rock Steady*, *Wired* and all the others have been, at best, honourable failures, but more often a lot worse than that," he now admits.

The White Room has arrived at a time when the British music scene is flourishing but, according to Januszczak, the programme's success is more than just a happy accident of timing. He believes that, as well as having absolute faith in the television appeal of good, popular music "irrespective of age, sex, race, chart position or genre" and paying minute attention to the technical details of staging and direction, *The White Room* has captured a vital element of topicality.

"The only way to put music on television successfully is to make a show that is horribly and obviously *au courant*. It has to be the place to be. And if you go along to the recording of *The White Room*, you will



He's ready, ready, ready to rock 'n' roll: Little Richard

find the whole place heaving with people desperate to be there on the night, be it Chris Evans, Paula Yates, Mark Lamarr, whoever."

As tomorrow night's line-up of Blur, Robert Palmer, Little Richard, Babylon Zoo, Solo and Skunk Anansie demonstrates, the show has made a virtue out of casting its net wide. But despite viewing figures for the first series averaging more than a million, Januszczak and the show's executive producer, Malcolm Gerrie, have not had everything their own way. In keeping with the spirit of the times — which gave us the battle of the Britpop bands — a fierce rivalry has developed between *The White Room* and BBC2's flagship music show *Late with Jools Holland*.

Holland, whose programme recently completed its sixth series, described *The White Room* as "just a sad, pale copy" of *Late*. Januszczak begs to differ. "The last series of *Late* took far more from the first series of *The White Room* than *The White Room* has ever taken from *Late*, and I've got the tapes to prove it. *Late*

has its strengths, but having its finger on the pulse isn't one of them."

Whatever their differences, with two substantial live music shows now firmly established, along with the revitalised *Top of the Pops* and *The Chart Show*, the coverage of pop on terrestrial television is now better than it has been for two decades.

And there is more to come. Dani Behr's late-night show, *Hotel Babylon*, launched on ITV on January 5, has had a frosty reception, and surprisingly little is known about Chris Evans's new Channel 4 show, the coyly titled *T.F.I. Friday*, except that it starts next month on a Friday. But both programmes promise to include a substantial proportion of live music in the mix.

After years of cynicism and scepticism — remember the argument that live music simply did not work on television and that comedy was the "new rock 'n' roll"? — it looks as if we are at last entering a golden era of pop on television.

DAVID SINCLAIR

CONCERTS: Overtalented songwriter; and an unfettered singer

POSSIBLY it is the fact of being good at too many things which first diminished Charlie Dore's potential as a pop star. Her one British almost-hit as a performer, 1979's *Pilot of the Airwaves*, may recur even now on the radio yet it barely tickled the lower reaches of the charts at the time. Occasional film roles, regular appearances as a member of an improvisational comedy team... she has not been sitting around moping about missed opportunities or dreams unfulfilled.

But it is her skill as a writer of hit material for other artists which has kept her name alive on record industry lips in the interim. A British No 1 for Jimmy Nail? Why certainly. An American Top 10 hit for Sheryl Crow? No problem either. And a track for inclusion on Celine Dion's ten-million-selling *The Colour of My Love*? Here is one that will do nicely.

Dore cheerfully admitted at this, one of three low-key but well-attended London gigs

Charlie still a darling

Charlie Dore
Borderline, WC2

within a week, that it was the third of those options — *Refuse to Dance*, the least formulaic of all Dion's choices on that album — which had allowed her not only to self-finance a good new album of original material (*Things Change*) but also to assemble the talented six-piece band with which she promoted it here. And she seized the chance to prove that, unlike her American pen-ford hire counterparts, she nurtures a healthy horror of the clichéd or the careworn phrase; the cumulative im-

pression was of a woman almost too intelligent to excel at her chosen trade.

But excel she does, by bringing wit and wisdom to a genre too often shackled to the moon-june school of songwriting. The gently political song, *Running Out of Heroes* and *7247* (a prisoner's identity number, not the phone number of some desperate girl) gave the greatest scope to her own airy athletic voice, but it was the performance of other tracks from the album — in particular *Time Goes By*, *Kiss My Innocence* and the title number — which made them seem like hits waiting to happen for any other artists with well-tuned ears.

Original versions of her Dion and Crow successes (the cleverly provocative *Strut*) completed the set. As for Jimmy Nail and *Ain't No Doubt*? Dore's warm reception left her no reason to attempt the requisite look of hangdog ennui.

ALAN JACKSON

Recipe for a vocal storm

EVERY now and then — let's say once or twice a year — comes an occasion when a critic should be allowed to gush unashamedly. Barbara Cook's *tour de force*, a performance which wound a majestic path through Broadway standards and well chosen contemporary ballads, was just such an evening.

With Cook, you get the best of both worlds. An accomplished soprano who brought a coloratura's flights of fancy to the role of Cunegonde in the original production of Leonard Bernstein's *Candide*, she has reined in the voice with the passing years, yet still blends immaculate diction and pitch with a jazz singer's intimacy

Barbara Cook
Café Royal

and relaxed timing. Again and again she breaks free from the original meter of a song to create her own, indelible interpretation.

The climax of her show, a gracefully assembled medley from *Porgy and Bess*, brought all those virtues into focus. Even in these brief extracts her cultured vibrato and theatrical training took her to the heart of each number; her exuberant phrasing on *It Ain't Necessarily So* and *A Woman Is a Sometime Thing* was the work of an artist who, in mood and

nuance, knows her way around Catfish Row.

If she makes this sleight of hand seem effortless, much of the credit must also go to her pianist of many years, Wally Harper, and her nimble bass player, Steve McManus. Much more than an accompanist, Harper ascends to the level of a co-star, his subtle arrangements responding to and sometimes cajoling Cook's voice. Together, they remind you of a married couple who finish each other's sentences. Only in this case you hear no clichés or small talk, just the liveliest of epigrams.

CLIVE DAVIS

Revenge has been fruitful

Tori Amos was right to expose her private demons on her new album

I n the empty monochrome of the restaurant, broken only by subdued green glass ashtrays and polite white vases, Tori Amos is stretched out, sprawled across a chair, flailing at an invisible piano, her orange hair as loud and wailing as her voice. She is singing, arias ricocheting off the blank metal walls, the cash till, the professionally blasé waiters. The table vibrates. The lyrics guarantee the service charge is going to be through the roof. "Star Power, just like my daddy! Mother Mary/China White/ Brown may be sweeter." The song is *Professional Widow*, the sickening, harpsichord swamp-rock deluge from Amos's new album, *Boys for Pele*, and already in the running for the best song of 1996.

"She's a black-widow spider, a delicious Southern woman; you'd want to eat her like ice cream but that ice cream is laced with strychnine. You'd have still melted cream running from your lips, down your face as your body stiffens and you went into convulsions." Tori explains, turning back to the table and quietening her rioting hair. "Your eyes would be rolling to the back of your sockets but you'd still reach out for another scoop. You'd die hungry for her." There are rumours that it's about Courtney Love. Kurt Cobain's widow.

"No, it's about me," Amos insists. "The part of me that wants to trap men in that woman-molasses. The part that's almost out hunting for revenge." It sounds like a slab of vintage Led Zeppelin. It certainly rocks, something one wouldn't expect of Tori Amos.

"All the hard rock boys know I rock," she grins. "That's why Robert Plant, Trent Reznor [of industrial hard-core band Nine Inch Nails] and Eddie Van Halen turn up to my gigs. They know how hard it is to drive a piano on stage, alone, for two hours a night. But I prefer it that way."

It's these febrile emotions that lend *Boys for Pele* its air of channelled grief, hysteria and healing — Amos recently

broke up with the man she had intended to marry, her producer Eric Rosse, and the emotional fallout produced *Boys for Pele*'s other stand-out track, *Hey Jupiter*.

"That was my last letter to him," Amos whispers, her wide eyes looking even wetter and brighter than usual. "My last attempt to get him back. I sang everything that was good about me in *Jupiter*, put everything in it. It was the last of our love. And it worked, for a little while. To a certain extent."

"Now I know we could never have spent the rest of our lives together," Amos reflects. "So much of me was him — when we were together I was strong, and I thought that meant I was complete. But I had to find out these things for myself."

And that's what this album is about — it's the first record I've done for myself — we went to Ireland, and I recorded it all in this little box, with my piano on my right and my harpsichord on my left, singing in the dark. Most of it's unaccompanied — I have so many different rhythms in my songs it would be cluttered if anyone else joined in."

It's the rolling tempo changes, complex counter-rhythms and almost wilful obliqueness of the lyrics. ("She thinks she's Kaiser Wilhelm/Or a calised syllabub" from *Mr Zebra*, the track you should skip) that marks out *Boys for Pele* as Amos's excursion into the same kind of alternative-rock field as Throwing Muses and Baby Bird. Almost certainly Q will not be putting her on the cover this time around.

"I find it surprising when people do put me on their covers," Amos says. "It's different here in England, but in America I only get played on college radio; and remarks I've made about religion mean I'm seen as this dangerous infidel." She gives a wry grin. "And with my father a priest I was in the running for some serious confusion in my head, which is why I'm so glad I'm part Cherokee. I've always got a part of me I can turn to."

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Weakness in numbers

The problem is by no means a new one but this time there is more evidence to support claims of a decline. Britain came below all but two of the 14 countries in arithmetical tests of nine-year-olds carried out in 1991. Other research has confirmed that, while British



Where the English national curriculum divides mathematics into five areas from the earliest years of schooling in Germany and Switzerland, like other European countries,

One reason for the contrast may be that continental teachers spend more time instilling

ways. Teachers need sensible advice, rather than legislation, on how mathematics should be taught in the early years."

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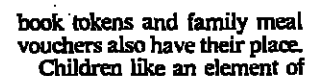
Why I gave my pupils those meal vouchers

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● *The author is Head Teacher of the Garibaldi School, Mansfield.*



This approach is paying dividends. Six years ago this school had a somewhat tarnished reputation with poor academic results, serious vandalism and many students opting to go elsewhere. The position has now changed. Academic results are much

Produced by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, the body responsible for the development of the curriculum in Hong Kong.

ble for the tests, the separate books on English, mathematics and science offer advice on revision and examination techniques, as well as sample questions at all levels of difficulty. Unlike rival publications, they contain actual questions from last year's tests.

The three books, which are

Some changes will be introduced in this year's tests for 11-year-olds, including the banning of calculators in one mathematics paper. However, the general appearance of the tests and the ground to be covered will alter little. Schools will be notified of the precise differences.

● *The Parents' Guide to National Tests*, published by HMSO, cost £4.95 a subject.

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Spinner helps shaky Australia to clinch first World Series Cup final

Warne's wiles undermine Sri Lanka

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

AUSTRALIA squeezed to an 18-run victory over Sri Lanka yesterday after the touring party suffered a middle-order batting collapse in the opening match of the best-of-three final of the World Series limited-overs cricket tournament in Melbourne.

Sri Lanka were cruising at 107 for two in the 24th over, chasing Australia's total of 301 for seven, but then lost seven wickets for 45. The decisive intervention was made by Shane Warne, the leg spinner, who slowed the scoring rate before taking the vital wickets of Aravinda De Silva, who had scored 34, and Hashan Tillekeratne for one.

The Sri Lanka batsmen suddenly found themselves under pressure, conceding the initiative to the Australia bowlers. As the scoring rate slowed to a trickle, McDermott began reaping the rewards from the other end, luring Asanka Gurusinha into a rash shot with his score on 47.

Attempting to lift the ball into the outfield, Gurusinha merely chipped the ball straight to Michael Bevan at mid-wicket. Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain, fought to the end, adding 33 runs for the last wicket with Ravindra Pushpakumara, the fast bowler, before being bowled by McGrath with 11 balls remaining.

Bevan and Ricky Ponting earlier rescued Australia by hitting determined half-centuries after a top-order collapse had left the home side reeling on 39 for four.

Chaminda Vaas, the left-arm fast-medium bowler, took 3-42 after an inspired opening spell in which he dismissed Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, and Mark Waugh, his opening partner, in his first three overs.

Ponting, who scored 51 off 74 balls, combined with Bevan, who made the top score of 59, in putting on 61 for the fifth wicket. Bevan, the Yorkshire



The bats fly as Ponting narrowly fails to make his ground and is run out for 51 during the Australia innings at the MCG yesterday

vice-captain, then put on 55 with Ian Healy, who finished on 50 not out, to ensure Australia reached a respectable total. It needed a brilliant diving catch in the 42nd over by Mahanama at long-on to end Bevan's assault.

The second match in the series will be played in Sydney tomorrow.

While the drama was unfolding under the lights at the MCG, the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) was telling its players that it would not penalise them if they pulled out of the World Cup after being the target of threatening letters.

Denis Rogers, the ACB chairman, and Graham Halbish, the chief executive, went to India and Sri Lanka

last week to seek security guarantees. Halbish said: "Personal safety is a genuine concern. The assurances we have been given do help but they might not be entirely sufficient for some. We are all hoping it will not come to that and are doing our best in regard with some excellent help from overseas."

"If any individual chose not to accept the ACB's invitation then that decision would not, in any way, prejudice his future in Australian cricket."

Australia open their World Cup programme in Colombo against Sri Lanka on February 17, and can expect further hostility over the treatment of Muttiah Muralitharan, the off-spinner, who has been called several times for throwing

during the present tour in Australia. Although Australia's remaining group matches are in India, they may then have to play in Pakistan in the knock-out stages. Pakistan's visit to Australia last year was clouded by allegations of bribery made by Warne, Mark Waugh and Tim May after the Australia tour there in 1994.

the top British woman's player, with three youngsters — Lizzie Jells, of Banbury, Karen Cross, of Exeter, and Megan Miller, of Yorkshire — at Nos 2, 3 and 4 respectively. Jo Durie, though officially retired, is at No 5.

RANKINGS (1995 position in brackets): Men: 1. T. Hearn (10, Scotland), 2. C. Wilson (4, Hampshire), 3. J. Baines (1, Surrey), 4. M. Pritchard (2, Essex), 5. M. McGowan (10, West of Scotland), 6. D. Shepherd (6, Surrey), 7. C. Beecher (13, Kent), 8. S. Conner (15, Lancashire), 9. A. Foster (8, Staffordshire), 10. L. Milgum (10, Middlesex). Women: 1. C. Wood (4, Sussex), 2. E. Jells (1, Oxfordshire), 3. K. Cross (5, Devon), 4. M. Miller (10, Yorkshire), 5. J. Durie (8, Devon), 6. S. Smith (1, Essex), 7. R. V. Vellody (1, Lancashire), 8. A. Warrington (1, Essex), 9. J. Moore (11, Warwickshire), 10. L. At (4, Devon).

Screaming out for different line of approach

Brian Clarke is left reeling by the inability of television to communicate angling's appeal

I see that *Screaming Reels* is back on television. Well, I say "see", but that is an overstatement. I only know for certain that horizontal stripes of it are on the box. Whenever I switch this programme on, great swaths of the screen are blacked out by the fingers I have clapped over my eyes.

For anyone who takes their fishing remotely seriously or is concerned for the way angling is presented to the public, *Screaming Reels*, which goes out on Channel 4 on Mondays, is a nail-biting view. One never knows — one lives in dread of — what might pop up next.

There have been interesting pieces from time to time, of course, but every week there is the rest: the frenetic presentation, the animation, the gimmicks, the ruinous depiction and treatment of fish.

If *Screaming Reels* is made by boys behaving badly, at least it is made with its tongue visibly in its cheek. Much televised angling — including most of what has gone out on the satellite channels — is not. Non-anglers tell me that most of what they see is incomprehensible: all jargon and verbal shorthand, with squirming things being shown at the same time in the background. Even the obvious enthusiasm of the participants fails to interest because the programme is switched off. In the meantime, fishermen complain that their sport is sidelined by television and reduced, in the main, to low-budget level.

Why is it that television producers so often present the sport garishly, or feel they need to surround it with gimmickry, or to have pop-up personalities from other fields present it simply because they happen to be anglers, too? It must be obvious that, if angling is the most popular outdoor participant sport in Europe, the United States and Japan, there are things about it that have an extraordinarily wide appeal. It must be obvious that, if angling engages the minds of famous and accomplished men for generation upon generation and can induce Sir Robert Boyle, of Boyle's Law, Sir Humphrey Davy, of the miner's lamp, and Charles Kingsley, of *The Water Babies*, among many others to write books about

the sport or homages to it, it must have great depth.

And still it needs gimmicks? The problem, I believe, is that, with very few exceptions, television fails to get to grips with the issue which angling's very popularity raises. That is, it fails to explore adequately what the appeal is. Unless that can be communicated, the lay viewer has no context in which to place what he sees and hears, and bemusement and disaffection result. Then the biggest outdoor sport of them all reconfirms its ghetto status.

Any attempt to televise angling would have a better chance if it made the search for this appeal its central objective. The obvious way to begin doing that would be to let anglers talk.

Not, of course, any anglers who happen to be on the bank. Nor a personality, if he is simply going through a performance. And not a brilliant angler if all he can do is fish. The answer is to use anglers chosen for their ability to express what they see and feel, in language that non-anglers can understand.

In other words, the sport needs articulating from the inside looking out and not, as so often seems the case, from the outside looking in. Then, viewers would hear about the fascination of the other world of water: about the natural histories of remarkable fish; about optics and entomology. They would hear about fieldcraft and watercraft, about currents and tides, about temperatures and seasons.

They would learn about tension and drama, dedication and obsession; about locked-on concentration and the stressed mind floating free. Beyond all of these, there would be insight into modern man as early man and grown man as boy.

Of course, they would hear about the different branches of angling, the specialisations within it, the approaches to it. They would learn about rods and tackle, and the amazing subtleties of technique.

These are the what and the how of fishing. By then, they would understand the why. What a change it would be, and what a difference it could make. The viewers might even understand.

Rules deprive Rusedski of British No 1 spot

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) named Tim Henman as Great Britain's new No 1 men's tennis player yesterday, but it did so with a degree of embarrassment. Henman has made great strides in the past 12 months, raising his world ranking from near the 300 mark to his present place at No 90, but Greg Rusedski, 57 places above him in the world list, is the national No 1 in everything but name.

Henman, 21, from Oxford, owes his elevated position not only to a year of consistent improvement, but also to the fact that Rusedski has been eligible to play for Britain only since last May, when the Canadian-born left-hander changed his national allegiance. Under LTA rules, no player can receive a domestic ranking unless he or she has been eligible to play for their country for the past 12 months — a rule that is now under review. In addition, the British rankings, based on the world list, are announced only annually, each January, while the world

standings are changed week by week, often leaving the British rankings hopelessly out of date within two or three months.

As a result, Rusedski, who played for Britain in the Davis Cup and the European men's team championship last year and is at No 33 in the world rankings, is not named, leaving Chris Wilkinson, of Southampton, Jeremy Bates, of Surrey — the No 1 last year — and Mark Petchey, of Essex, snapping at Henman's heels.

Clare Wood, of Brighton, remains as

the top British woman's player, with three youngsters — Lizzie Jells, of Banbury, Karen Cross, of Exeter, and Megan Miller, of Yorkshire — at Nos 2, 3 and 4 respectively. Jo Durie, though officially retired, is at No 5.

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BOWLING English Women's In-Door Bowling Association international final: 10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-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England and France lead pack in championship pay stakes

Little parity in wealth of nations

By MARK SOUSTER

THE negotiations are over and rugby union's contracts, apart from those in Wales, are signed. Players can now concentrate on the business of playing. Tradition and pride apart, there is much, financially, to play for in the first professional five nations' championship.

Discussions between the international squads and their respective unions continued throughout the autumn and several deadlines for signature passed as the fine detail was worked out. The end product reflects the respective strengths of the competing countries and their playing record over recent years. England, and then France, emerge as the clear winners.

A glance at the column that lists maximum earnings, but does not take into account commercial opportunities, suggests a reasonably level playing field among the five nations. Closer analysis, however, reveals the glaring discrepancy in what teams are guaranteed.

England and France, the most successful sides in recent years, enjoy by far the largest retainers, £24,000 and £30,000 respectively. Twickenham's largesse is commensurate with the side's achievements and, coupled with match fees of £2,000, means that England players will earn £6,000 for each of this season's internationals. The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the only union not paying a win bonus, which may indicate a belief among the players that, in a period of

transition after the World Cup, victories might be hard to come by. The cost to the RFU, depending on the size of the squad, will top £1 million. While the contracts of the four home countries covers only the period until the end of March and a maximum of six matches, France's includes the summer tour to Argentina, culminating in the second international, in June. In total, 11 matches. The players stood to gain a one-off bonus of £22,000 if they had gone through the season unbeaten, but the defeat by New Zealand means that cannot be won.

However, they still stand to receive an average bonus of £2,100 per victory, although this will be adjusted according to who is beaten. No doubt, an England scalp at Parc des Princes, their first in the

championship since 1988, would be worth an extra few francs. Built in is an extra bonus of about £2,000 for winning the grand slam. The players have also been guaranteed eight free tickets for matches, and the opportunity to buy 25 more. Where the France players make significant sums is through their clubs. A top international, like Thierry Lacroix, can earn more than FF¥25,000 a month (around £3,300) on top of his federation contract.

At the other end of the scale come Ireland and Scotland. The Ireland retainer is £7,500, Scotland's £2,500 less, which highlights the relatively impoverished financial state of those unions. The Scottish Rugby Union, for instance, is known to be experiencing financial difficulties and has

reiterated that it would not pay what it could not afford. Ireland have a maximum of 30 players on contract with Scotland 23, with both countries paying match fees of £3,000. The earnings of the Ireland players includes fees for the matches against Fiji and the United States, and players will earn £500 for each point won in the championship. Scotland are not paying a straight win bonus, but one based on their position in the table at the end of the season. If they repeat their grand slam of 1990, they will receive £5,500, decreasing by equal amounts of £1,100.

Wales's players are finalising their deals, have been paid fees of £2,000 a match against Fiji and Italy and win bonuses of £300 and £1,000 respectively.

WHO EARNS WHAT IN THE FIVE NATIONS

Retainer	£24,000	£30,000	£7,500	£2,500	£20,250	£16a
Match fee	£2,000	£2,000	£2,000	£2,000	£2,000	£2,000
Bonus	none	£5,500	£500	£2,000	£2,000	£2,000
Earnings	£26,000	£35,000	£9,500	£4,500	£24,250	£20,000
Contract	6 games	6 games	6 games	6 games	6 games	6 games
Max earnings per game	£5,000	£5,000	£4,750	£2,875	£4,166	£3,333

(a) decided by British players.
 (b) £1,000, max £5,500.
 (c) £2,000, max £5,500.

Moment of truth for potential dictators

By GERALD DAVIES

IF ANYTHING can be said with certainty about a five nations' championship more open to questions and lack of confident prediction than usual, it is that the stand-off half will become the focal point of every country's attention in the weeks ahead.

Come the aftermath of any match, he will find himself in the vortex of either blame or praise. Upon his slight frame rests the exaggerated triumphs and disasters of his team. Particularly the disasters, which the player soon finds are a more solitary and isolating experience than shared success.

This emphasis will be out of proportion, of course, but then, every player who wears the No 10 jersey understands this to be his destiny or he might as well retire to the open wastes of the wing or reshape his career so as to be within

of Ireland, can be said to have a settled pedigree; at least in experience if not in consistent appearances. Thierry Lacroix, of France, has been a centre, as has been Gregor Townsend mostly for Scotland, and every week for Northampton. Paul Grayson plays only his second game for England.

In addition, while Neil Jenkins remained indisposed through injury, Arwel Thomas played his first game for Wales against Italy on Tuesday, when he displayed a naturalness in the position that will bring him into contention for selection against England. However, there is not much to go on.

The stand-off half should define his team's strategy while, at the same time, leaving himself room to play on the hoof. All of England knew where they stood with Rob Andrew, as did New Zealand with Grant Fox.

They both played to what Brian Price, the former Wales lock and captain, refers to as the geography of the pitch. Thus, the stand-off half sets boundaries within which the game must be played — here an up-and-under, there a diagonal punt, here the back row can have his inside pass, there the centre to chance his arm — rather than using the speed, flight and angle of the ball to determine the next course of action regardless of which square patch he occupies at any particular time. If they gave the appearance of inflexibility, both Andrew and Fox played the tactics required of them with rare accuracy and accomplishment.

Yet the very best stand-off half belongs to neither the one category nor the other. He is an amalgam of both. It is where he chooses to place the emphasis that defines him.

England and New Zealand had such powerful forwards as to dominate a match. Their stand-off halves played to them, but what if the irresistible force met the immovable object? It was New Zealand who first posed the question and who promptly supplied the answer in the World Cup last summer. Rugby's tactics have to change.

The inclusion of Andrew Mehrtens declared his team's intentions. Here was a player endowed with all the other essential qualities of kicking and passing, and also the instincts of an attacking runner. He is not of New Zealand's usual mode, but then nor are their present tactics.

For them, the geographical



Thomas, left, of Wales, could face Grayson, of England, in the battle of the international novices in two weeks' time



Lacroix: converted centre



Townsend must adapt fast to his change of position



Elwood: settled pedigree

game for the moment has gone: speed, support and angles of running create the pressure nowadays, not the grinding accumulation of territory.

Who in the five nations' championship will follow that example? Which of the countries will break down the predictable lines of pressure? Furthermore, who will do away with the division that sees the backs playing a secondary role to the primacy of the forwards?

You shall not have the ball, the back row seems to say, until we have done with it, and when you have it, you shall place the ball in such a

position that we can play with it again. The stand-off half complies, but, because the ball returns so slowly, it limits his options to do anything else.

England, having grown comfortable with the style, will consequently find it the hardest to change. For the championship this season, they may not need to, but if they have greater ambition, they may soon have to. For the time being, Grayson, as he showed against Western Samoa, is a confident operator. So is Elwood, who can be expected to follow a similar pattern.

France, under Jean-Claude Skrela, their coach, are accepting the need to change and

have the personnel to do so. They have the talent in the back row and threequarters to ensure that the forwards and backs meld together.

However, the onus, inevitably, is on Lacroix, a centre hitherto but who played stand-off half in South Africa's provincial championship, to make the connection as seamless as possible.

Of the other countries, Scotland come nearest to playing the fluid game; but, as so often in the past, they rarely have the playing resources, of sufficient power and strength, to consolidate their position. Because they cannot afford to be embroiled in continuous

physical confrontation, and preferring the rucking game, the ball emerges from their forwards faster than anyone else's.

Townsend is more of a runner than Craig Chalmers, his predecessor, who may have lacked the necessary speed but who had the fine footballing talent, of brain, boot and balance, to make Scotland tick. It is up to Townsend to do the same.

After the World Cup, the championship needs a lift to combat the continuing dominance of the southern hemisphere. Much will depend on the respective stand-off halves. The pressure is on.

that his dead-rubber victory gave his undefeated club, who have a match in hand over Cambus.

He played with outrageous confidence, striking power kills from the back of the court on either hand and guiding controlled drop shots effortlessly into both nets, while Nicol was unusually tense and irritable.

Only in the game that he dropped, from leading 8-5 and 12-9, did Harris allow the new British champion to settle to the rhythmic rallying that is the basis of his success. The inventive volleying that served Nicol so well in the national final on Monday was negated by Harris's powerful driving, suggesting that this is a rivalry that will continue into the new squash year.

IOC decides on 'super drug' tests

By JOHN GOODBODY

BLOOD samples may be taken from competitors at the Olympic Games in an attempt to develop an accurate test to detect artificially administered human growth hormone (HGH), known as the "super drug". The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will decide next month whether to sanction what will be voluntary sampling in Atlanta this year.

HGH, which used to be obtained from the pituitary glands of dead humans, has been developed chemically and is believed to help the anabolic action of the body and to broaden the bones. It is often used in combination with anabolic steroids, which are detectable through urine testing, already mandatory for medalists.

Two groups of scientists, one in Great Britain, the other in Switzerland, have already been working to try to detect when HGH has been artificially administered.

The British team presented its preliminary findings at the Berzelius conference in Stockholm last summer. The work has been a collaborative effort between three parties: the Drug Control Centre at King's College, London University, under Dr David Cowan; St Luke's Hospital at the University of Surrey, under Dr Derek Teale; and St Thomas's Hospital in London, led by Professor Peter Sonksen.

The Lausanne laboratory believes that it has found a test that measures physiological changes. Dr Marcel Saugy, its director, said that several back-up tests are being developed to measure the presence of other substances that become more concentrated when HGH has been injected. A combination of tests would be

expected to determine whether HGH had been artificially administered.

Saugy said: "I think we are very close to implementing these tests." However, a possible drawback is a finding by endocrinologists. They have concluded that the stress of Olympic events causes the body to naturally produce high levels of growth hormone. The proposed blood-sampling would help to establish the normal levels of growth hormone in the bodies of competitors. Saugy believes that the level of growth hormone should be monitored in training and compared with the levels found at leading events.

HGH, which is often used to help undernourished children, is available on the drugs black market. Ten years ago, £50,000 worth of the drug disappeared from the Great Ormond Street hospital for children in London.

Harris makes point against Nicol

By COLIN MCQUILLAN

DEL HARRIS, whose ambitions for a third British title foundered last weekend on a decision to change his squash shoes when leading his semi-final against Mark Chalmers, illustrated the profligacy of that decision on Wednesday when he led his ICL Lion Herts squad to the head of the Super Squash League with a resounding victory over Peter Nicol, the Scot who defeated Chalmers in the national final.

Harris, the England No 1, overcame Nicol, ranked two places above him at No 4 on the world list, 15-9, 15-17, 17-14, 15-13 in the 72-minute first-string rubber that finished close to midnight at Herts Country Club in Welwyn Garden City, to conclude a 3-0 win over Camdens Club and displace the previously undefeated London squad at the top of the table.

In what was almost a celebratory victory for three members of the England squad that took the world team trophy for the first time in November, Chalmers defeated Justin Rennie 15-13, 15-9 in a 51-minute third-string rubber and Chris Walker defeated Julien Bonet, the French champion, 15-12, 10-15, 15-12, 17-14 in 66 minutes at second string.

Walker, the England captain who reached his first PSA grand prix final when losing to Nicol in the Mahindra Challenge last month, returned hot-foot on Wednesday from New York, where he had defeated Gary Waite, of Canada, 15-10, 15-8, 15-7 in the final of the Appawais International for his first title on the professional tour.

Harris seemed more intent on making a belated national championship point than in collecting the extra league point

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Shah agree
after talk
Birmingham

and - us -

ZERO
PRICE

TONIGHT
EVERY WEEKDAY

By DAVID MADDOCK

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, explained, however, that, although a price had been set with Birmingham,

Clough, though, is becoming weary of such suggestions.

Now, Clough has the opportunity to begin playing again, even if it is at a lower level. He must prove now that, while he was left stranded in the Anfield station, his time did not come and go for ever.



Vividly recalling Hunter scoring a hat-trick when switched to playing up front for Cambridge United reserves, Chapple had no hesitation in using him in that role from the start to replace Darran Hay. "The trouble is people will now expect that every week," Chapple said. "If he does it, mind you, he'll be worth £2 million."

Hopley called in

Rugby union: Damian Hopley, dropped from the senior England side after being capped in the autumn internationals, has been called into the England team to play an Autumn international with France in Paris this evening. He replaces Paul Hull on the wing.

□ Quentin de Bruyn (Diocesan College, Cape Town and Keble) is the new Oxford University captain.

BY PETER BALL

"We are desperate to be among the elite of Europe, and there's only one way you can do that. This club hasn't won the championship for almost 70 years, but we've never had such a good opportunity to change that. We

On Wednesday, with Lee's Achilles tendon causing him to miss the tie, Beardsley was forced to drop back into midfield. Ferdinand's departure with a rib injury left the front line looking equally short. Ferdinand may take some part against Bolton Wanderers tomorrow, but suspensions, too, are causing Newcastle problems. Ginola, who was sent off

REVISED DRAFT

Bolton Wanderers v Leeds Utd
 Charlton Athletic v Brentford
 Coventry City v Manchester City
 Everton v Leeds
 Huddersfield Town v Peterborough Utd
 Ipswich Town v Wests
 Middlesbrough v Wimbledon
 Nottingham Forest v Oxford Utd
 † Queens Park Rangers v Chelsea
 Reading v Manchester Utd
 Sheffield Utd v Aston Villa
 Southampton v Liverpool
 Sunderland v Tottenham
 Swindon v Barnsley or Oldham Athletic
 Tottenham Hotspur v Wolverhampton W
 West Ham Utd v Grimsby Town

against Arsenal, starts a three-match ban against Sheffield Wednesday in two weeks. Peacock, dismissed for receiving two yellow cards on Wednesday, will serve his one-game suspension on the same day.

With Gillespie injured, the absence of Ginola will mean that Newcastle

By then, Arsenal will know whether they are through to the Coca-Cola Cup final, which, for one more year, offers a UEFA Cup place. With their league form slipping recently, Wednesday's defeat at Sheffield United means that is their only realistic hope of honours this season. and

Rioch is also running up against injuries and suspensions. Platt, who missed nine games earlier in the season, went into hospital yesterday for a further knee operation. At best, he seems certain to miss the game against Everton tomorrow, when Adams and Keown start two-match suspensions. Dixon and Bould are injured and McGowan starts a suspension on Monday. Rioch, who said yesterday that he would intensify his search for signings, may have just as great a need to buy as Keegan.

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93, Htt; 64, *Novae*; 66, *Attacker*; 68, *Ho*; 70, *Hold*; 75, *Hit*; 66, *Count*; 68, *Res*; 70, *Hold*; 75, *Hit*; 77, *Am*; 78, *Att*; 79, *Att*; 79, *Att*; 80, *Att*; 81, *Att*; 82, *Att*; 83, *Att*; 84, *Att*; 85, *Att*; 86, *Att*; 87, *Att*; 88, *Att*; 89, *Att*; 90, *Att*; 91, *Att*; 92, *Att*; 93, *Att*; 94, *Att*; 95, *Att*; 96, *Att*; 97, *Att*; 98, *Att*; 99, *Att*; 100, *Att*; 101, *Att*; 102, *Att*; 103, *Att*; 104, *Att*; 105, *Att*; 106, *Att*; 107, *Att*; 108, *Att*; 109, *Att*; 110, *Att*; 111, *Att*; 112, *Att*; 113, *Att*; 114, *Att*; 115, *Att*; 116, *Att*; 117, *Att*; 118, *Att*; 119, *Att*; 120, *Att*; 121, *Att*; 122, *Att*; 123, *Att*; 124, *Att*; 125, *Att*; 126, *Att*; 127, *Att*; 128, *Att*; 129, *Att*; 130, *Att*; 131, *Att*; 132, *Att*; 133, *Att*; 134, *Att*; 135, *Att*; 136, *Att*; 137, *Att*; 138, *Att*; 139, *Att*; 140, *Att*; 141, *Att*; 142, *Att*; 143, *Att*; 144, *Att*; 145, *Att*; 146, *Att*; 147, *Att*; 148, *Att*; 149, *Att*; 150, *Att*; 151, *Att*; 152, *Att*; 153, *Att*; 154, *Att*; 155, *Att*; 156, *Att*; 157, *Att*; 158, *Att*; 159, *Att*; 160, *Att*; 161, *Att*; 162, *Att*; 163, *Att*; 164, *Att*; 165, *Att*; 166, *Att*; 167, *Att*; 168, *Att*; 169, *Att*; 170, *Att*; 171, *Att*; 172, *Att*; 173, *Att*; 174, *Att*; 175, *Att*; 176, *Att*; 177, *Att*; 178, *Att*; 179, *Att*; 180, *Att*; 181, *Att*; 182, *Att*; 183, *Att*; 184, *Att*; 185, *Att*; 186, *Att*; 187, *Att*; 188, *Att*; 189, *Att*; 190, *Att*; 191, *Att*; 192, *Att*; 193, *Att*; 194, *Att*; 195, *Att*; 196, *Att*; 197, *Att*; 198, *Att*; 199, *Att*; 200, *Att*; 201, *Att*; 202, *Att*; 203, *Att*; 204, *Att*; 205, *Att*; 206, *Att*; 207, *Att*; 208, *Att*; 209, *Att*; 210, *Att*; 211, *Att*; 212, *Att*; 213, *Att*; 214, *Att*; 215, *Att*; 216, *Att*; 217, *Att*; 218, *Att*; 219, *Att*; 220, *Att*; 221, *Att*; 222, *Att*; 223, *Att*; 224, *Att*; 225, *Att*; 226, *Att*; 227, *Att*; 228, *Att*; 229, *Att*; 230, *Att*; 231, *Att*; 232, *Att*; 233, *Att*; 234, *Att*; 235, *Att*; 236, *Att*; 237, *Att*; 238, *Att*; 239, *Att*; 240, *Att*; 241, *Att*; 242, *Att*; 243, *Att*; 244, *Att*; 245, *Att*; 246, *Att*; 247, *Att*; 248, *Att*; 249, *Att*; 250, *Att*; 251, *Att*; 252, *Att*; 253, *Att*; 254, *Att*; 255, *Att*; 256, *Att*; 257, *Att*; 258, *Att*; 259, *Att*; 260, *Att*; 261, *Att*; 262, *Att*; 263, *Att*; 264, *Att*; 265, *Att*; 266, *Att*; 267, *Att*; 268, *Att*; 269, *Att*; 270, *Att*; 271, *Att*; 272, *Att*; 273, *Att*; 274, *Att*; 275, *Att*; 276, *Att*; 277, *Att*; 278, *Att*; 279, *Att*; 280, *Att*; 281, *Att*; 282, *Att*; 283, *Att*; 284, *Att*; 285, *Att*; 286, *Att*; 287, *Att*; 288, *Att*; 289, *Att*; 290, *Att*; 291, *Att*; 292, *Att*; 293, *Att*; 294, *Att*; 295, *Att*; 296, *Att*; 297, *Att*; 298, *Att*; 299, *Att*; 300, *Att*; 301, *Att*; 302, *Att*; 303, *Att*; 304, *Att*; 305, *Att*; 306, *Att*; 307, *Att*; 308, *Att*; 309, *Att*; 310, *Att*; 311, *Att*; 312, *Att*; 313, *Att*; 314, *Att*; 315, *Att*; 316, *Att*; 317, *Att*; 318, *Att*; 319, *Att*; 320, *Att*; 321, *Att*; 322, *Att*; 323, *Att*; 324, *Att*; 325, *Att*; 326, *Att*; 327, *Att*; 328, *Att*; 329, *Att*; 330, *Att*; 331, *Att*; 332, *Att*; 333, *Att*; 334, *Att*; 335, *Att*; 336, *Att*; 337, *Att*; 338, *Att*; 339, *Att*; 340, *Att*; 341, *Att*; 342, *Att*; 343, *Att*; 344, *Att*; 345, *Att*; 346, *Att*; 347, *Att*; 348, *Att*; 349, *Att*; 350, *Att*; 351, *Att*; 352, *Att*; 353, *Att*; 354, *Att*; 355, *Att*; 356, *Att*; 357, *Att*; 358, *Att*; 359, *Att*; 360, *Att*; 361, *Att*; 362, *Att*; 363, *Att*; 364, *Att*; 365, *Att*; 366, *Att*; 367, *Att*; 368, *Att*; 369, *Att*; 370, *Att*; 371, *Att*; 372, *Att*; 373, *Att*; 374, *Att*; 375, *Att*; 376, *Att*; 377, *Att*; 378, *Att*; 379, *Att*; 380, *Att*; 381, *Att*; 382, *Att*; 383, *Att*; 384, *Att*; 385, *Att*; 386, *Att*; 387, *Att*; 388, *Att*; 389, *Att*; 390, *Att*; 391, *Att*; 392, *Att*; 393, *Att*; 394, *Att*; 395, *Att*; 396, *Att*; 397, *Att*; 398, *Att*; 399, *Att*; 400, *Att*; 401, *Att*; 402, *Att*; 403, *Att*; 404, *Att*; 405, *Att*; 406, *Att*; 407, *Att*; 408, *Att*; 409, *Att*; 41

Mason, who finished 39th, ahead of nine men, in the first race of the season last Sunday, has also been prevented from competing in the remaining World Cup events, beginning with the race in La Plagne, France, tomorrow.

The rules of the International Bobsleigh and Toboggan Federation require that a competitor competing in five sup-

her competing in future events. Mason, 20, said: "We tried to appeal, but it is like hitting your head against a brick wall. I would now like there to be a women's World Cup." In skeleton bobsleigh, competitors hurdle head-first down slopes on sleighs resembling tea trays with runners.


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Support of family and friends helps boxer back for important bout

Docherty confronts life after death

Srikumar Sen meets
a young sportsman
trying to come to
terms with tragedy

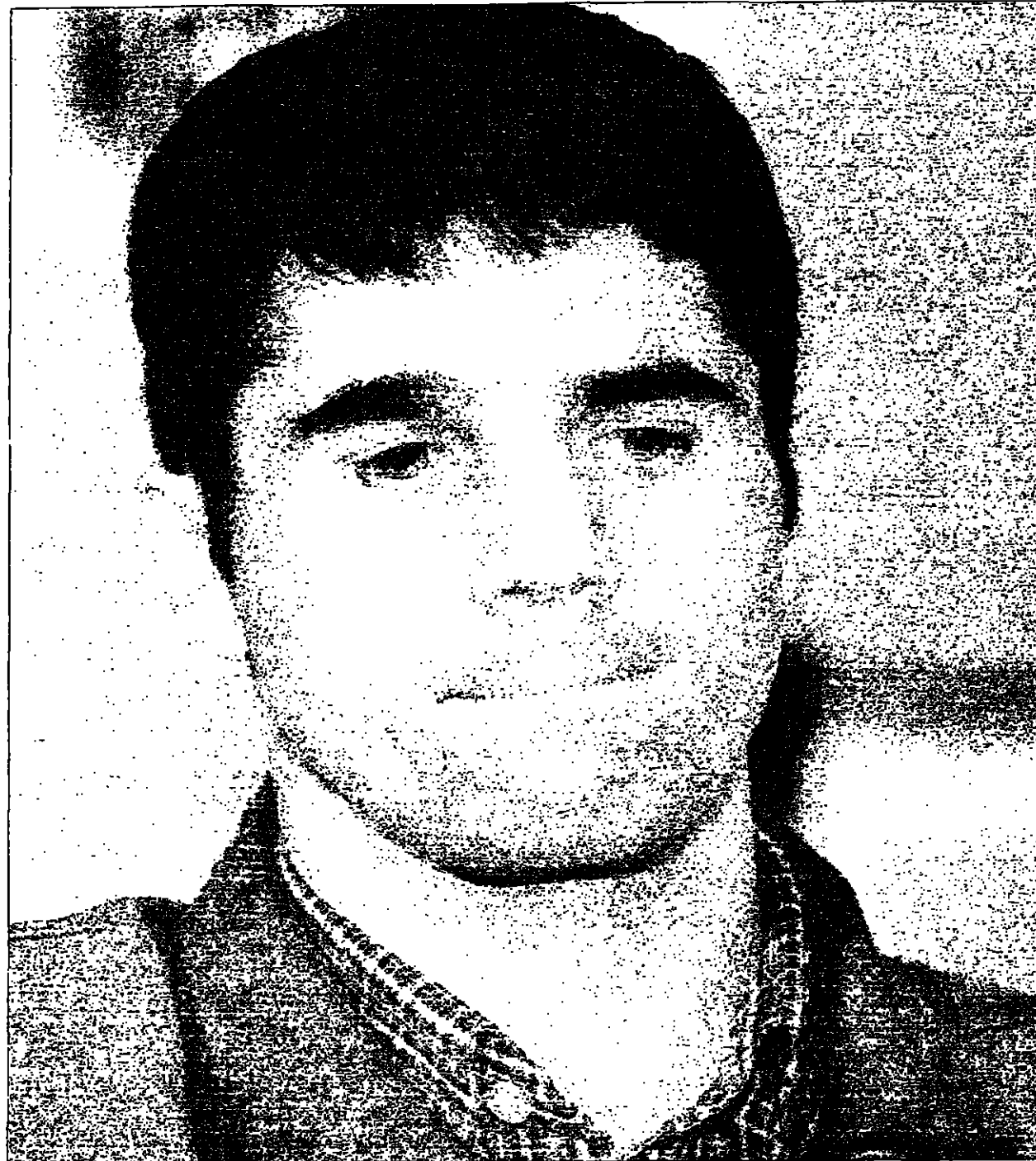
D new Docherty, the British bantam-weight champion from Scotland, has the most important contest of his career at Mansfield tomorrow when he meets Daniel Jimenez, of Puerto Rico, the World Boxing Organisation champion. It will be his first bout since the death of James Murray last October. Docherty was in the opposite corner on that tragic night at the Hospitality Inn, Glasgow.

Docherty, 30, is carrying on boxing to secure the future for himself, his fiancée, Caroline, and daughter, Rachel, nine months. He also wants to win the title for Murray. He does not want Murray to be remembered simply as a statistic in the boxing argument, but as a hero. Winning the title will give him due recognition. Their bout was one of the best seen in Scotland for a long time.

"It was a tremendous fight we had," Docherty said. "We never got credit for it. It would have been the fight of the year, but it was forgotten. It became like a bad dream. I think about Jim. I still remember him. I wouldn't be a good man if I didn't remember him and how good he was that night. I don't think many people realise this, but boxers are very close. That's why they cuddle each other after the bell. When the bell goes, he's your friend again."

The bout with Jimenez will also show if Docherty's heart is still in boxing—whether he can hit in earnest and is prepared to knock his opponent unconscious. Chris Eubank certainly was never himself again after Michael Watson suffered serious brain damage in their second bout. Gabriel Ruelas, the former world champion, lost all interest after the death of Jimmy Garcia and was beaten by Azumah Nelson, making his comeback at the age of 37.

Barry McGuigan still prays for Young Ali, who died some months after a bout with him in 1982. "My kids and I pray every single night for Young Ali and Bradley Stone and



Docherty believes that the memory of Murray will not interfere with his performance tomorrow

James Murray and Michael Watson and Gerald McClellan," McGuigan said. "In my first fight after Young Ali, against Jimmy Duncan, I had him in trouble but I couldn't bring myself to hit him again until he hit me with a desperation punch and hurt me. Only then was I on him again."

Tommy Gilmore, Docherty's manager and pro-

motor, whose family has been three generations in boxing, does not know how Docherty will react in the ring. "He's got his humour back; you can see a wee spark," certainly," Gilmore said. "How will it feel to come back to boxing? Who knows? There doesn't appear to be a problem."

Docherty is certain that the memory of Murray will not

interfere with his bout tomorrow. He does not expect to see Murray with every punch, in the way that Richie Weston said he saw Bradley Stone in a contest with Neil Swain and walked out of the bout.

Docherty said: "I don't think I'll suddenly feel like holding back. I believe I'm good enough to win the world title, but I don't think I'm good

enough to hold back and win the world title. If I don't give it my all, I won't win. I don't want to dwell on what happened. I want to be the world champion. I'm sure Jim's up there, saying 'You go out there and win this world title'."

Docherty, who comes from Cumbernauld, said that it was mainly due to the understanding and kindness of Murray's

mother and father, Margaret and Kenny, that he was able to recover. "I went to see his father and mother," he said. "They told me it wasn't my fault. Boxers and their families know the risks, they said. 'Boxing's boxing,' he concluded. 'Tragedies happen and life has to go on.'"

"The funeral was the worst," he said, "because it happened with a bang. Trouble is, I didn't think anybody would die in a boxing ring. It never really hit home, but then, when I saw the coffin, it really hit home that somebody had died and I was involved in it."

"It's funny, but you never think it's going to happen to you. I've been involved in the game for nearly 20 years and that's the first time I've ever seen it or been involved in it. Everybody in the village was great. My mother and father,

'When I saw the coffin, it really hit home that I was involved in it'

and neighbours and grannies coming to the house helped me."

Gilmore said: "He needed time to himself. We had thought about professional counselling, but we found that the best counsellor was the man in the street. The people of Scotland were the counsellors to him. Nobody has ever made a back-handed remark. They always wish you the very best, even the paper-man in the street, and I think that's how you are driven on when you know people are behind you. That's better than any counsellor."

Docherty went back to the gym after six weeks because he had to give his brother, Wilson, a lift in his car. At first, the Glasgow Transport gym, on the east side of the city, looked about as inviting as an electricity sub-station to Docherty. However, instead of sitting there "all dressed up", waiting for his brother, he decided to do light work. Gradually, he returned to full training and started sparring two weeks ago.

Overture to a composer

Charles Ives Weekend, Radio 3, 7.30pm

Starting tonight and ending on Monday night, Radio 3 throws in its lot with the Barbican Hall in London in paying tribute to the prolific American composer. In Britain, we have been starved of chances to get to know Ives better. Now, we can hear five concerts featuring his work on Radio 3, beginning with this live concert from the Barbican by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Davis. The works include *The Unanswered Question*, *From the Steeplechase* and *The Mountains* and *The Robert Browning Overture*. The last was one of the compositions Ives all but disowned. He once threw the score across the floor shouting "It's no damn good!" Judge for yourself whether this Browning version deserved such rough treatment.

Kaleidoscope Feature: *The Laughing Children*, Radio 4, 9.30pm

The repeat broadcast of this helpful analysis of Sir Michael Tippett's opera, *The Midsummer Marriage*, was not scheduled at random. Tonight sees the second performance of Graham Vick's new production of the opera at Covent Garden, where it was premiered in 1995. Like many operas that eventually gained favour with public and critics, *The Midsummer Marriage* had mixed notices. Some were downright hostile. Much of the sourness was reserved for Tippett's libretto which some critics found incomprehensible. Lynne Walker's Kaleidoscope feature gets rid of any ambiguities that may still exist. There cannot be many.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 4.00am Chris Warren 6.30 Chris Evans 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Liza (Apostrophe) 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier and at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00am Radio 1's Essential Selection 10.00 John Peel with Bob Talbot and DJ Hifi 1.00am Radio 1 Rap Show 4.00-6.00am Lynn Parsons

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Vivian 9.30am Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Double Throver 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05pm John Dunn 7.00 Howard Keel Presents Playhouse Her Majesty's Theatre 7.30-7.30am Radio 2's Music Night 8.30 Listen to the Band 10.00 Ian Anderson's Celtic Connections 12.00am Topical Fanzalver 1.00 Charles Howe

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.35 The Magazine and Video Review, Euronews and at 11.30am Chari Reaction 12.00 Midday with Mai, and at 12.34pm Moneycheck; and at 1.15 Entertainment News 2.05 Rapzone on Five, and at 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00pm John Inverdale Nation wide and at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra 7.35 Parkinson on Sport 8.35 On Pole 9.05 American Graffiti 9.35am Press 10.05 Entertainment: Superhighway 11.00 Night Extra, and at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.00am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Wan 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan Ross 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anna Riebaum 4.00 Scott Chisholm and Lorna Turner 7.00 Sean Baker 9.00 Mac Dea 10.00 James White 1.00-6.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am Newsday 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 On the Spot 7.30am Newsday 8.00 News 8.10 Faith 8.15 Music Review 9.00 News in German 9.15 Faith 9.45 Sports 10.00 Newsday 10.30 BBC English 10.45 La Sante Vierge 11.00 Newsday 11.30 Newsday 12.00 News 12.30pm World Service in Action 1.00 Newsday 2.00 News 2.05 Cuckoo 2.30 Lunchtime 2.55 Newsday 3.00 News in German 3.15 Music Review 4.00 News 4.15 The World Today 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Newsday 5.45 Sports 6.00 Newsday 6.30 News in German 7.00 News 7.05 Cuckoo 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 Multitrack 8.00 Newsday 8.05 Newsday 8.05 Sports 9.15 British Today 9.30 P-News 10.00 Newsday 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sport 11.00 News 11.10 Sportsday 11.15 Surviving the 20th Century 11.35 Evening Midweek News 12.30am From the Weekends 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 News 1.10 Press 1.15 Seven Days 1.30 Jazz 1.45 Good Books 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Politics 3.00 News 3.15 Sports 3.30 Vintage Chart Show 4.00 Newsday 4.30 Jazz 4.45 Seven Days

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffin 6.00 Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susan James 2.00pm Susan James 3.00 James Crichton 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Sports 7.00 Classic Verdict 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Michael Aspin 1.00am Robert Booth

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Graham Dene 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Mark Forest 4.00pm Ricky Lane 7.30 Paul Coppe 10.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00 am Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air including Boccherini (Symphony in E flat No 5), Strauss (Symphonies domestiques), Sibelius (Finlandia Op 26); Kodaly (Suite, Hary Janosi), Vaughan Williams (The Pastoral), The Roadside First, Weber (Clarinet Concerto No 2 in E flat) 9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Giamberini, Berlioz (Harmone), Scanzoni (Sonatas in D minor, in D), Gluck (Aescandio) 10.00 Musical Encounters including Baroque (Cinquieme concert, Pièces de clavecin on concert) 10.25 Artist of the Week: Sandy Vagh, violin Beethoven (String Quartet in D, Op 18 No 3); 11.00 MacCunn (The Ship of the Fend; MacCunn (Symphony No 35 in D) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Villa-Lobos and Gershwin, Violoncello (Cello Concerto No 1: Ulrich Schmidt; North West German PO under Dominique Roggen) 1.00pm Women's Hour: Garsenda (Three Canons, Estancia), Garsenda (Harp Concerto: Rachel Masters; City of London Sinfonia) 1.00pm News: St David's Hall Recital: Douglas Finch, piano plays Chopin (Mazurka in B flat minor), Smalley (Variations on a Theme of Chopin), Busoni (Seven Elegies), Scriabin (Seven Pieces), Wolpe (Guzon, Stehende Musik), Shostakovich (Piano Sonata No 1) 2.00 Schools: Let's Make a Story 2.15 Music Box 2.30 Dance Workshop 2.50 Poetry Corner

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Plays for the Day 6.30 Today 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News and 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs Sue Lawley's castaways: the writer Jimmy McGovern (1) 9.45 Feedback: Chris Dunkley returns with a new series 10.00-10.30 News: Island on the Edge (FM only), John Fergusson samples the writer gales, the erratic power supply and the isolation of Foula, Britain's most remote community 10.00 News: An Act of Worship (LW only) 10.15 This Soap? Isle (LW only) 10.30 Women's Hour: Gail Foley introduces today's edition from Cardiff. Serial: Mother of Pearl by Mary Markey (2/12) 11.30 The Natural History Programme, presented by Joanna Pinnock 12.00 News: You and Yours 12.25pm The Food Programme 12.55 Weather 1.00 News: You and Yours presented by Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: The Classic Serial: The Barchester Chronicles Barchester Towers: The second in a series of dramatisations of all six of Anthony Trollope's Barchester books is adapted in three episodes by Marilyn Wray (3/3) 3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift, with Laura Taylor and guests

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope Tim Marlow explores the myth and reality of the artist's studio 4.45 Short Story: Crossing the Glacier by Berne Doherty Read by Janet Daley (1) 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 News 6.30 Going Places 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Pick of the Week 8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs a topical discussion in Winchester. The panelists are Virginia Bottomley, MP, Secretary of State for National Heritage, Joan Lambert, Green Party spokesperson on European issues, Austin Mitchell, MP, and Earl Russell, Liberal Democrat, spokesman in the House of Lords on Social Security 8.50 Law in Action: Marcel Barthe returns with the legal series 9.15 Letter from America, by Alastair Cooke 9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature: The Laughing Children (1) See Choice 9.55 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (5/15) 11.00 Week Ending: Salfire with Sally Grogan, Tony Lownorth, Peter Goodnight and Lewis Macleod 11.25 Fourth Column with Alistair Fothergill and guests 11.45 Today in Parliament 12.00 News and 12.27am Weather 12.30pm The Late Book: Mayday the Moon (5/16) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE: RADIO 1: FM 97.8-99.8, RADIO 2: FM 85.0-90.2, RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4: FM 92.4-94.5, LW 158, MW 720, RADIO 5 LIVE: MW 893, 908, WORLD SERVICE: MW 648, LW 168 (12.45-5.33am), CLASSIC FM: FM 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO: FM 105.8, MW 1197, 1215, TALK RADIO: FM 100.1, MW 1053, 1099 Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillen Mearns, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

RUGBY UNION
Ireland v Scotland (at Celtic Park, Glasgow, 7.30pm)
France v England (at Jean Bouin Stadium, Paris, 6.00pm)
Ireland v Scotland (at Donnybrook, 2.30pm)
Under-21 International (at Blackrock College, noon)

RUGBY LEAGUE
Stones Championship (at Wigan, 7.30pm)

FOOTBALL
LEAGUE OF WALES: Holywell v Cornah's (7.30pm)
SCOTTISH LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Shelbourne v Athlone (7.45pm)
SCHOOLS MATCH: English girls' Vinto under-16 Trophy: Bentley Moor High School v Archbishop Greigshaw (8.30pm)

OTHER SPORT
BOXING: British super-heavyweight championship (vacant) P J Gallagher (Wood Green) v Danny Morris (Barnsley) (at Barnsley)

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 38

CROWK
(a) The croak of a raven. Applied to wild geese in the United States (from the Icelandic *Krunk*—the raven's cry). In the 18th *Cumberland Gloss*, we are told that it is the "hollow note uttered by the raven when on the wing".

CAPON
(b) To make a capon of, to castrate. (From the French *chaponner*.) A 19th-century copy of the *New Zealand Herald* refers with linguistic belt and braces and double otiosity to the "caponing of male fowl birds".

CHELA
(c) In esoteric Buddhism, a novice qualifying himself for initiation. (From the Hindi *chela*: slave, servant, pupil, disciple and from the Pali *chela*: slave). Sinner's 1885 *Esoteric Buddhism* discusses the role of the "chela, or pupil of occultism".

CONJEE
(d) The water in which rice has been boiled, used as a depressing article of diet for invalids, and as starch. It may have been taken from the Portuguese. Garcia 1561 has *cangie*, *candgie*, *cangie* and *cangie* as early representations in other European languages. A T Christie in *Epidemic Cholera* shows how the resemblance of cholera stools to rice-water has given rise to the spunky expression for the secretion in India viz. *conjee* evacuations.

NOTATION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1... Qf6; 2. Bg2 e4 wins a piece from the double attack against d3 and a1.

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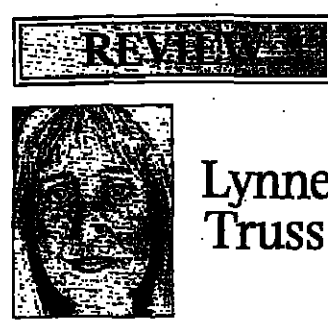
Is this the right way up for a boy band?

A cluster of prepubescent girls in a Cardiff car park, so excited that they eye the spot. "Have you heard of a group called *Upside Down*?" asks the chap behind the camera. "No-o-o!" they chorus, with the affirmative gusto that usually goes with "Ye-e-e-s!". At this point a minibus containing the boys of *Upside Down* swings into view and the girls go wild. They run for autographs, get momentarily lost in a mass of hair and baggy denim, and retire agitated and breathless. Already they have sorted out the boys' names and decided which one they fancy. "Giles!" "Chris!" "Chris!" "Richard!" "Giles!" "Chris!" From obscurity to fame in a split second is a remarkable thing, and last night's *Inside Story* (BBC1) saw it happen. As the girls stared briefly at autographs in their grip, and then ran off to another van, the whole cynical en-

terprise of launching a "boy band" looked pretty damn sensible at last. The making of *Upside Down* was told in detail from the day of the auditions last spring. Is there a general rule of television that showbiz stories cannot fail? A *Band is Born* was fascinating — even though the outcome was banal, as was the product. From a mail response of 7,000 hopefuls, two music producers auditioned 250 boys for looks and singing ability. They would invest heavily in this band if the formula was right but first indications were not hopeful. In a sequence well worth preserving on video to show to one's friends, the queue of boys each rendered *Love Me For A Reason*, and rightly squirmed at their own awfulness. "Don't love me for fun, girl," sang the querulous and flat, in a key of their own invention. "Let me be the one, girl." Wannabes in singlets and

torn jeans began their act with twirls, hip thrusts and gel-gripping, and then sang like a nanny goat with bronchitis. But this was not about the broken hearts of 240 boys; it was about the dream for the four — Giles, Chris, and the other two. "Do you think you'll be attractive to young girls?" the director asked Chris, and he said, "Yes, definitely." The producers turned down a young man with a terrific voice because he didn't have the requisite clean good looks. The producers wanted boys you could eat your dinner off. Which is not such an unpleasant thought, as it turns out.

Which one did I like? Well, shucks, I was sort of torn between Giles and Chris. Giles is the more intelligent but Chris is very cute. Also Chris's hair hasn't been tortured as much as Giles's.



Lynne Truss

But sorry, this isn't irrelevant. While *A Band is Born* followed these boys through their choreography and singing lessons (they could all sing) and the making of their single and pop video, it never forgot that these boys were really being groomed to star on bedroom walls, putting with their shirts undone. That's the fundamental point of boy bands — and in fact of all pop stars except perhaps Elton

John. *Upside Down*'s producers came across as single-minded and entrepreneurial, and not unkind. But when the boys felt embarrassed and vulnerable, posing in thermal underwear for the pop video, their contract with the money-men suddenly looked pretty sinister. Just take those trousers off, boys. The girls will love it. And the gay market will like it too. As always, the promotional aspect of *A Band is Born* was worrying. But with most art documentaries helping to sell something nowadays, obviously it can be difficult to draw the line. I recommend to viewers a double standard which states that it's all right when the product is a book. But when it's a pop record, the public airwaves have been hijacked and it's an abuse of the medium. Readers may remember how Jimmy Nail's series *Crocodile* Shoes offended comprehensively in this regard. So it is with some

weariness I report that *Upside Down* has a single out; it was released last week. And that the *Inside Story* audience has heard it roughly ten times already, with glimpses of the video and lovely sneak previews of the singers in their pants.

Elsewhere there was little to write home about. French and Saunders (BBC1) had a disappointing night, with most sketches relying on the joke of recognition. To their credit, they kept the cultural references wide — last night, a viewer was expected to laugh at "Oh yes, isn't that just like Fellini?" while also knowing the Cranberries and Noel's *House Party*. Jennifer Saunders looks too good in a ginger beard, incidentally — I hope she always remembers to take it off. But it has to be said there are few feelings of dismay equal to the loneliness of not getting it on *French and*

Saunders. "Who are they meant to be now?" are words a nice person doesn't like to frame, for fear of hurting somebody's feelings. Finally, on ITV a pleasant *Survival* visited a place of barren rock — the canyons of the American west, where sheer rock-faces, high temperatures and no water would seem to rule out the chance of habitation. But what's this? The camera zooms in on a sign of life. A locust lurks cliff swallows build their gourds-like nests. And it doesn't stop there, either. See the rats and hamsters. Goats clip-clop across the boulders. Tree frogs. The mighty eagle, the jack rabbit. By the end of this enjoyable film, those deserted canyons of the American west looked like the animal equivalent of the concourse at Victoria Station. If little mice had also stood up on their hind legs and sung *Blue Moon* in high squeaky voices, it wouldn't have been the least surprise.

BBC1	BBC2
6.00am Business Breakfast (18451)	6.00am Business and Work Talking on the Channel (30161) 6.30 Hotpoint (19093)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (CeeFax) (297880)	7.00 Breakfast News (CeeFax) (246635)
9.10 Kilroy. Topical discussion (s) (2902161)	7.15 Lassic (3297513) 7.40 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (s) (7351088) 8.05 The Really Wild Show (s) (5304884)
10.00 News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (7043187) 10.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (6155548)	8.35 The Record (s) (9688819) 9.00 Consuming Passions (s) (6518529)
10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (35708)	9.05 Daytime on Two: Job Bank (6002088) 9.15 Teaching Today (238890) 9.45 Watch (2202971) 10.00 Playdays (58988)
12.00 News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (2225229) 12.50 Pebble Mill with Alan Titchmarsh (s) (9423635) 12.50 Regional News and weather (1312880)	10.30 The Eye (1931074) 10.45 Numbers Plus (1985529) 11.00 Look and Read (5772891) 11.20 Short Circuit (9616529) 11.40 Belle Fie (5206884) 12.00 English File (61831) 12.30pm Working Lunch (35432) 1.00 Soane (40451) 1.30 Showcase (7131277) 1.45 Words and Pictures (1712843)
1.00 News (CeeFax) and weather (59108)	2.00 Johnson and Friends (s) (96543155)
1.30 Neighbours (CeeFax) (s) (94297616)	2.10 Sport on Friday: Tennis: the Australian Open: Skilting: men's and women's downhill from Switzerland and Italy (s) News and weather at 3.00 (101180) 3.55 News (CeeFax) and weather (5207165)
1.50 Newsweek. Descriptive series starring George Peppard (s) (2572161)	4.00 Today's the Day (s) (426) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (838) 5.00 Esther. A studio discussion on contact with the dead (s) (5906)
3.05 Timespace. Quiz (s) (5657345)	5.30 The Village. A crisis at the pub leaves Alison the barmaid in charge (178548)
3.30 The Littlest Pet Shop (1951616) 3.50 Look Sharp! (s) (2810797) 4.05 The All New Popeye Show (s) (8069722) 4.15 Julia Jelky and Harriet Hyde. (CeeFax) (s) (2842425) 4.30 The Mask. (CeeFax) (s) (9912074)	5.55 My Village. Growth in north Yorkshire (s) (896093)
4.55 Newsweek Extra. A report from Uganda on the efforts to protect mountain gorillas. (CeeFax) (592528)	6.00 The Murrans (b/w) (CeeFax) (465628)
5.10 Blue Peter. (CeeFax) (s) (7537258)	6.25 The New Avengers starring Patrick Macnee (s) (CeeFax) (434513)
5.35 Neighbours. (CeeFax) (s) (179277)	7.15 Electric Circus (s) (836513)
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Martin Lewis and Jennie Bond. (CeeFax) Weather (181)	7.30 Sounds of the Eighties. Musical nostalgia (CeeFax) (s) (567)
6.30 Regional news magazines (513)	8.00 Top Gear Motorsport. Featuring the Camore del Incas race in Peru (CeeFax) (s) (490)
7.00 Gadget. A comedy quiz for stand-up comedians chaired by Bob Monkhouse. (CeeFax) (s) (4800)	8.30 Gardening from Scratch. Simple water features (CeeFax) (s) (7797)
7.30 Tomorrow's World. (CeeFax) (s) (797)	9.00 Rab C. Nesbitt. Wit and wisdom with the philosopher (CeeFax) (s) (5364)
8.00 Just Good Friends. Comedy series starring Paul Nicholas and Jan Francis. (s) (CeeFax) (3548)	9.30 The Fast Show (s) (CeeFax) (s) (59068)
8.30 A Question of Sport. Sporting knowledge quiz between teams captained by Ally McCol and Bill Beaumont. (CeeFax) (s) (9155)	10.00 The Real McCoy (CeeFax) (s) (11190)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (CeeFax) Weather (8722)	10.30 Newsnight (CeeFax) (243906)
9.30 Sea of Fire 999 Special. (CeeFax) (s) (592884)	11.15 Fantasy Football League. With Desmond Lynam and Roger de Courcy (s) (315906). WALES: 11.15 Lobby (845548) 11.45 Fantasy Football League (s) (31277) 12.00 Northern Lights (403891) 1.00-1.45 A Brighter Summer Day (830198)
10.20 Five Nations Rugby. On the eve of the opening matches of the five nations' championship Eddie Butler is joined by Rob Andrew, Jonathan Davies, Gavin Hastings and Brendan Mullin to preview this year's competition (s) (67548). WALES: 10.20 All Our Lives (401161) 10.50 Five Nations Rugby (537906) 11.15 Film: Internal Affairs (348161) 1.05pm-2.30pm Film: Island of Terror (912785)	11.45 Weather (261859)
10.45 Film: Internal Affairs (1990) starring Richard Gere and Andy Garcia. A crime thriller about a corrupt Los Angeles policeman. Directed by Mike Figgis. (CeeFax) (s) (18394782)	
12.40am Film: Island of Terror (1986) starring Peter Cushing, Edward Judd and Carol Gray. A thriller about a scientist who discovers a secret cancer research laboratory that is dumping boneless bodies and mutations on an island off the Irish coast. Directed by Terence Fisher (2978045)	
2.05 Weather (2397914)	

Alan McKee as Davey (11.50pm)

11.50 Northern Lights. (888893)

12.30am Film: A Brighter Summer Day (1991) starring Zhang Zhen. Epic about growing up in 1960s Taiwan. Directed by Edward Yang. In Mandarin with English subtitles (6189759). Ends at 3.30

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Tomorrow's World
BBC1, 7.30pm
Scheduled dauntingly against *Coronation Street*, *Tomorrow's World* continues to carry the brave message that science is more riveting than soap opera. The series never fails to come up with intriguing ideas, though you wonder how many of them will actually make it. Perhaps a follow-up programme now and again would be instructive. Meanwhile, Vivienne Parry reports on how computer-aided design is being applied to dentistry. The benefit could be made-to-measure fillings, put together in seconds and guaranteed not to fall out. In the United States a company has devised an automated security gate that uses the heat from a person's face to identify them. Since no two people have the same thermal image, the system is said to be foolproof.

Gardens Without Borders
Channel 4, 8.00pm
Englishmen abroad Alan Mason and Will Giles continue their tour of the Iberian Peninsula and uncover more gardens that the package tourists are likely to miss. At Lloret Del Mar, a favourite spot for lying in the sun, Giles forsakes the beach and the bronzed bodies to stroll over the garden of Finca de Rosa, with its rich collection of cast. Then it is off to Cap Riga, to run the camera over a plant collection built up by a White Russian and his English wife and later passed on to the Spanish nation. Finally, Barcelona yields an avant-garde concept garden by Antonio Gaudí, creator of the eccentric Catalan cathedral, and a private garden containing the largest maze in Spain. If Mason and Giles sometimes offer more enthusiasm than substance, there are plenty of facts for the eye.

Sea of Fire: A 999 Special
BBC1, 9.30pm
The latest reconstructed emergency concerns the *Orleans*, a Greek oil tanker, which in 1994 collided with a trawler in the North Sea and burst into flames. The 32-strong crew was trapped on board, unable to reach the lifeboats. An RAF helicopter braved the gales to offer its help. Usually on these programmes the rescue, while heroic and full of nail-biting incident, is relatively straightforward. In this case everything went wrong. Mel Ward, the helicopter's winchman, was lowered on to the ship but lost his rescue line. His colleagues were forced to abandon him. He, in turn, feared that they had perished after a snapped cable threatened to disable the helicopter's rotors. The *Orleans* started drifting towards a oil platform. Actors and participants combine seamlessly to bring a very nasty episode back to life.

Northern Lights
BBC2, 11.00pm
It seems there is no getting away from politics in Northern Ireland, even in a project to encourage the province's film-makers. Two of the three short films in this compilation are set around the Orange Order's July 12 celebrations, though neither, it should be said, is remotely propagandistic. John Forrie's neat comedy is about a man who buys a pedigree goat to prove his skin for his Limerick drums. Initially appalled at the waste of money, which she thinks would have been better spent on a Spanish holiday, his wife becomes fond of the animal and tries to save it. There is comedy, too, in Pat Griffin's tale of a young woman who creates a magnificent cake for July 12, only to have it rejected by the Orangemen for an unlikely reason. The third film, about an aspiring young surfer, proves that it is possible to escape politics after all.

Peter Waymark

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HTV
6.00am GMTV (2708432)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (4186426)
9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (6090088)
10.00 The Time... the Place (s) (1906364)
10.35 This Morning (57147074)
12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (6118513)
12.30 ITN News (Teletext) (6956555)
12.55 Murder, She Wrote (s) (4687722)
1.50 Home and Away (Teletext) (7896000)
2.20 Chain Letters (Teletext) (s) (1805819)
2.50 The Woodward File (4432345)
3.20 ITN News (Teletext) (2184819)
3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (7168990)
3.30 Rosie and Jim (s) (2985529)
3.45 Disney's Pluto (2813884)
4.00 Zorro (2647971) 4.15 Blamie's Bucket (s) (8883172) 4.40 Gladstone: Train to Win (Teletext) (7812451)
5.10 A Country Practice (s) (9826000)
5.40 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (615800)
6.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (189722)
6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (165155)
6.45 Sportsweek (Teletext) (711817)
7.00 Family Fortunes. The McDowells from Sutton Coldfield compete for cash against the Gallaghers from London (Teletext) (s) (6068)
7.30 Coronation Street. It is the morning after the night before and Denise has some explaining to do (Teletext) (203)



Guinness goes into action (8.00pm)

8.00 The Bill: Judgment Call. What begins as a routine night for the officers at Sun Hill ends in personal tragedy for one of the officers (Teletext) (3258)
9.00 Catherine Cookson's The Tide of Life. Final episode, in which Emily realises Birch never really loved her but she is determined he will not forget her (Teletext) (s) (6722)
10.00 ITN News at Ten (Teletext) (11136)
10.30 HTV West Headlines (451548)
10.40 Film: Evidence of Love (1990), starring Barbara Hershey, Brian Dennehy and John Turturro. A love-bible-school teacher's craving for excitement leads to an ill-fated affair. Directed by Stephen Gyllenhaal (Teletext) (s) (7497703)
12.25am Hotel Babylon (s) (4708488)
1.05 The Good Sex Guide... Life (6111846)
2.10 Film: The Left Hand Gun (1958, b/w) starring Paul Newman, Lita Milan and John Dehner. Powerful, psychological western which demythologises the life of Billy the Kid, the legendary gunslinger. Directed by Arthur Penn. (341339)
3.55 Live from London (1557933)
4.50 Music Box Profile (90974020)
5.00 On the Live Side (24020)
5.30 ITN Morning News (19001)

HTV WALES
As HTV WEST except:
2.50-3.20 Van Can Cook (4432345)
6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (326835)
As HTV West except:
12.55 Chain Letters (8407425)
1.25 Coronation Street (2859971)
1.55 Home and Away (7896007)
2.25 Wish You Were Here...? (1899780)
2.55-3.20 Cat Crazy (1865567)
3.10-3.40 Home and Away (6982800)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (47277)
As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (8407425)
1.25 Chain Letters (2859971)
1.55 A Country Practice (84112971)
2.20-3.20 Murder, She Wrote (3924068)
3.10-3.40 Shortland Street (6982600)
6.25-7.00 Central News (326835)
10.40 Central Weekend (7487703)
2.10am The Chart Show (847575)
3.05 Dear Nick (3419117)
As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 Chain Letters (8407425)
1.25 Home and Away (7896007)
1.55 A Country Practice (84112971)
2.20-3.20 Murder, She Wrote (3924068)
3.10 Home and Away (6982600)
6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (47277)
Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (32432)
9.00 Fifteen to One (12093)
9.30 Eureka (3227884)
9.45 Spot, Look, Listen (3285567)
10.00 Fourways Farm (8594677)
10.10 Eurokids (7312364)
10.25 The Technology Programme (7317819)
10.40 Off Limits (7874258)
11.05 Backroads (8622180)
11.20 Stage One (8610345)
11.35 Schools at Work (1200797)
11.40 How We Used to Live (5311180)
12.00pm Sesame Street (49635)
1.00 Shot Mithrin: Pilsan Pw (42819)
1.30 Film: Operation Pacific (1950) (83838)
2.30 Taste of the Caribbean: Cuba (587)
4.00 Backroads (722)
4.30 The Pulse (906)
5.00 5 Pump: Synth 96 (3994548)
5.15 5 Pump: Ael (4285884)
5.30 Countdown (258)
6.00 Newyddion 6 (524364)
6.15 Heno (92371)
7.00 Pobl Y Cwm (448432)
7.25 Cerd Y Cymry (504345)
8.00 Cefn Gwled (6258)
8.30 Newyddion (9038)
9.00 Fawb All Faw (935258)
9.45 Short and Curries: Seventeen (978890)
10.00 Backroads (11118)
10.30 Jo Brand (425068)
11.05 Film: The Big Steel (1990) (357819)
12.55am Film: Girl with Green Eyes (1963) (307488)
2.40 How Wonderful (7324643)

CHANNEL 4
6.35am Think Tank (s). (Teletext) (s) (5713797)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (32432)
9.00 Fifteen to One (s). (Teletext) (s) (12093)
9.30 Schools: Eureka (3227884) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (3285567) 10.00 Fourways Farm (8594677) 10.10 Eurokids (7312364) 10.25 The Technology Programme (7317819)
12.30pm Sesame Street (28345) 1.30 Camberwick Green (s) (56971)
2.00 Film: A Fatal Glass of Beer (1933, b/w). A alcoholic classic W.C. Fields comedy (1952245)
2.25 Film: The Pied Piper (1942, b/w). A Scottish and World War drama based on Neil Shute's novel starring Monty Woolley, Anne Baxter, Roddy McDowall and Otto Preminger. Directed by Irving Pichel (Teletext) (634093)
4.00 Backroads (Teletext) (s) (722)
4.30 Countdown. Quiz (Teletext) (s) (906)
5.00 Cutting Edge: The Trouble With Money (s) (Teletext) (s) (9108)
6.00 Blossom. Los Angeles-based teen comedy (s) (Teletext) (s) (871)
6.30 Movieathon (s) (s) (451)
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) (444890)
7.55 The Book Choice. Nicholas Coleridge reviews Barry Humphries' *Women in the Background* (Teletext) (s) (698513)
8.00 Gardens Without Borders. (Teletext) (s) (5258)
8.30 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (8093)
9.00 Cybill: As The World Turns To... American sit-com starring Cybill Shepherd. (Teletext) (s) (1432)
9.30 Rising Damp. A sitcom boarding house comedy (s) (s) (4384)
10.00 Roseanne. Direct to Video. Wiscracking American comedy. (Teletext) (s) (11118)
10.30 Jo Brand Through the Cakehole. The second in a six-part comedy series. (Teletext) (s) (425068)
11.05 Film: The Big Steel (1990). A delightfully sweet and funny Ealing-style Australian rite of passage comedy starring Ben Mendelsohn. Directed by Nadia Tass (357819)
2.40 How Wonderful. Australian comedy (s) (7324643) Ends at 3.40

Channel 4
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HOCKEY 37

BRITAIN FACING A
TEST OF STRENGTH
IN OLYMPIC QUEST

SPORT

FRIDAY JANUARY 19 1996

BOXING 42

DOCHERTY LEARNS
TO COPE WITH
LIFE AFTER DEATH

Atherton must stand aside for World Cup

DEFEAT and frustration were etched into the face of Michael Atherton late on Wednesday night. The limited-overs international series had been emphatically lost to South Africa, he looked tired beyond the point of sleep and spoke almost inaudibly, as he sometimes does when England have lost and he is searching for the words to explain why.

Yet something was different this time. He described his disappointment at the way batsmen had got out through over-eagerness and his unhappiness at fielding lapses, but he did not sound angry. Nor did he sound as though he had just read the riot act to his players. There was no emotion in his voice whatsoever.

Something seems to have died within Atherton during this bizarre two-week travelling circus of one-day matches, which continues, with a sixth game, in East London today. It is, one might hazard, his affection for limited-overs cricket. It might be reborn one day, but not before he leaves South Africa on Monday, nor in time for the World Cup, which starts on February 14.

Atherton has never been well suited to one-day cricket, either intellectually or temperamentally. As a batsman, he was initially ignored by England as too slow a scorer, and, although he has since estab-



Simon Wilde believes a change of leadership would be in England's best one-day interests

lished himself as an impressive run-gatherer, he rarely eschews orthodox or embraces innovation.

The same could be said of his captaincy. For example, there are times — such as in Johannesburg last Saturday or Durban on Wednesday — when a one-day match is low-scoring and it becomes essen-

Craig White, the all-rounder, will open England's innings with Michael Atherton in the sixth one-day international in East London today. Jack Russell, the wicketkeeper, will bat at No 4.

TEAM ROSTER: M A Atherton, C White, R A Smith, R G Russell, G A Hick, N H Fairbrother, G P Thomas, D G Cook, M M K Smith, D Gough, R H Benge, P J Morris.

tial for a side to chase wickets rather than save runs. This runs contrary to one of the main precepts of the limited-overs game, but sometimes it needs to be done. In Johannesburg and Durban, Atherton could not bring himself to do it and from that time those matches were lost.

Another example. Before

this series began, Atherton and Raymond Illingworth, the England manager, said that they would use it to experiment before the World Cup. Yet they have given few opportunities to any but their favoured 14 for that tournament and tried few new tactics. Even the idea of a pinch-hitter came from South Africa.

Atherton is an outstanding batsman and worthy captain in the Test match arena, where players are able to express themselves in their many different ways. His 11-hour resistance to save the Johannesburg Test was a perfect example of that; it was both an extraordinary feat of batsmanship and of leadership — but it had nothing to do with one-day cricket.

The solution is staring everyone in the face. Someone other than Atherton should captain England in the World Cup and possibly in all their other one-day internationals. Nothing but tired old practice says that a country's Test match captain and one-day captain should be the same person. Apart from anything else, a shared role would ease some of the pressure that bears down on a full-time captain obliged to take part in his side's every commitment.

The England one-day players need someone fresh to enthuse them, to give them the passion that is so obvious in South Africa's cricket. They must be encouraged to believe that they can beat any team on the planet. Sadly, Atherton's lack of sympathy for the one-day game has communicated itself to the players to the point that they are no longer sure that they could beat Griqualand West's B team.

There is, moreover, a man at hand who could do the one-day job — Dermot Reeve. Reeve is without doubt the best county captain in England, with six trophies in three years to his credit, four of them in limited-overs competitions. Like Atherton, he captains as he bats, the difference being that Reeve bats inventively, outrageously and unashamedly. Nor would his appointment threaten Atherton's position as Test captain, because he is clearly not suited to Test cricket.

Since arriving in South Africa at Christmas, Reeve has spent little time playing, so it is hardly surprising that he has struggled to shake off the cobwebs from his close season, though he may play in the last match of the tour, on Sunday.

Atherton should, of course, play as a batsman under Reeve, though he need not. He might not feel comfortable doing so, and neither might Reeve. On the other hand, it might liberate Atherton as a one-day batsman. Either way, it would be better for the team and for Atherton. England might even win the World Cup. Not only that — under a newly invigorated Test captain, they might also win a Test series or two.



Pierce strains in vain for the extra effort that would have saved her from defeat by the unheralded Likhovtseva, right, in Melbourne yesterday

Pierce fails to find champion's touch

FROM STUART JONES
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN MELBOURNE

A YEAR after Mary Pierce won her first grand slam championship at Flinders Park, she typically found another way of making a dramatic, albeit less distinguished, impact here. Beaten by Elena Likhovtseva, she is the first defending Australian Open women's champion, in the Open era, to leave as early as the second round.

Long on power and short on guile, her limited game is based essentially on hit or miss. When she hits, she can be virtually irresistible and never more so than when she dropped only ten games in six matches on her way to reaching the final of the French Open in 1994.

Steffi Graf, the world No 1 and the last of her victims in Paris, was forcefully swept aside in 77 minutes. When Pierce misses, as has been the case more often over the last

year, her armoury can appear to be spectacularly empty. She barely has a defensive mechanism.

The policy carries a high risk. When it fails, her resistance often falls apart. Her serve tends to go as awry as her thought process, and, never ballistic at the best of times, she becomes even more ploddingly leaden-footed. In brief, she is one of the leading contenders waiting to be beaten.

Once she had dropped the first set to Likhovtseva, ranked 47 places below her, she began to flail even harder in panic and desperation. She still maintained her customary flirtatious air, hoping to catch the eye of the crowd, but her composed opponent kept on catching the lines and accumulating the decisive points.

Her response to yet another failure was bereft of magnanimity and dignity. She offered no praise for the 20-year-old Russian, who had claimed by far the most notable victory

of her career, and instead blamed herself for her 6-4, 6-4 loss within an hour and a half.

"From the beginning, I never felt comfortable," she lamented. "I was moving really heavily and I made a lot of mistakes. I wasn't nervous. When I am, I usually play better. Nothing was working. I had a really bad day."

Flinders Park results — 38

Mana Endo has been attempting for most of her life to beat her Japanese compatriot, Kimiko Date. The pair grew up together and have lost count of the number of times they played each other over the years — but, with one exception, the result has always been the same.

Until yesterday, that is. Date, the No 5 seed, had saved two match points and was taking her time to recover from an exhausting rally. In

the umpire's view, she took more than the allotted 25 seconds and the official warning disrupted her concentration. She served a double fault and subsequently bowed out.

Endo claimed her only other victory against Date two years ago in Tokyo. That had pleased her. This exhilarated her, even if her opponent had contributed 61 unforced errors to her cause.

Pierce and Date were followed onto the same No 1 court — apparently a temporary graveyard for the leading figures — by Boris Becker and he was rapidly in even deeper trouble than he had been against Greg Rusedski earlier in the week. The No 4 seed found himself two sets down and at 2-2, 0-40 on his serve against Thomas Johansson.

Yet Becker relishes adversity. He seized 16 of the next 19 points and established sufficient momentum to carry him through to his second five-set victory of the week. Arnaud Boetsch could not sustain his

recovery and he, the No 12, became the fourth seed to be beaten in the men's singles.

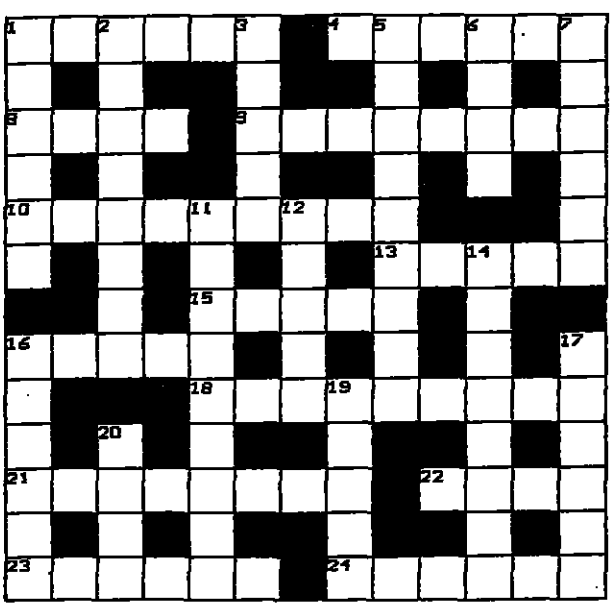
The departure of Pierce and Date has opened up the bottom half of the draw for Conchita Martinez. The first seed she is scheduled to meet, Lindsay Davenport, missed seven match points before removing Renae Stubbs, the last Australian survivor among the women.

The woes of the hosts did not end there. One of their leading lights, Patrick Rafter, aggravated a wrist injury and had to retire, handing an unexpected victory to Mauricio Hadad, of Colombia, and Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde, the top seeds in the men's doubles, lost ignominiously in the first round of their event. The Woodies, who won the US Open and Wimbledon championships last year, collapsed in three sets 2-6, 7-5, 8-10 to an unknown, if related, Australian duo, Joshua Eagle and Andrew Florent, on an outside court.



Atherton's demeanour in one-day cricket suggests a captain out of tune with that form of the game

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 682

ACROSS

- 1 Field back, delay (6)
- 4 Where Kubla Khan ruled (6)
- 8 (Cap) peak; (cup) lip (4)
- 9 Shoddy and showy (8)
- 10 Authorised (Bible) (4,5)
- 13 Bronze-medal position (5)
- 15 Apple drink (5)
- 16 Snap; interval (5)
- 18 Speech for lone actor (9)
- 21 Settle accounts; adopt fighting pose (6,2)
- 22 Throw over (girl) (4)
- 23 Disprove (6)
- 24 Voice-box (6)

DOWN

- 1 Chide (6)
- 2 Instrument; plane figure (8)
- 3 Item of religious belief (5)
- 5 Of one's forefathers (9)
- 6 Unfortunately (4)
- 7 Hurtful (6)
- 11 He ate no fat (4,5)
- 12 Perfect example; small-scale version (5)
- 14 Great wickedness (8)
- 16 School treasurer (6)
- 17 Rules of grammar (6)
- 19 Drive forward (5)
- 20 Wide gap (4)

The solution to 681 will be published Wednesday, January 24

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Cross-city move for Coton

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

TONY COTON, who has lost his place in the Manchester City team, is expected to join Manchester United today as goalkeeper cover for Peter Schmeichel. A proposed £500,000 move to Sunderland fell through earlier this week and yesterday United stepped in, hoping to claim Coton, 34, one of a handful of players to have appeared for both clubs.

"I think Tony will give us the right back-up," Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager said. "He's had a tremendous career and I should always feel that he should have been England's goalkeeper."

David Platt, the England captain, faces another spell

out of the game after exploratory surgery on his left knee yesterday, the second operation in five months following his £4.75 million move from Sampdoria to Arsenal during the summer. Platt, 29, tore a

Clough's next move — 41
Newcastle defiant — 41

cartilage after playing four Premiership games and missed nine matches. Yesterday, surgeons discovered a small piece of cartilage still floating inside the knee.

"I have not yet been told how long it will be before I am back playing again, but I

don't imagine it will be more than a few weeks," Platt said. "The unfortunate truth is that I have not been 100 per cent fit for Arsenal even once this season."

West Ham United took their new year spending to £3.5 million yesterday when they bought Michael Hughes, the Northern Ireland winger, from Strasbourg for £200,000 and completed a £1.5 million deal with Tottenham Hotspur for Ilie Dumitrescu, the Romanian international.

Dumitrescu, who must wait for his work permit to be renewed, is expected to make his first appearance against his former club on February 12.

England to make most of new talent

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN PARIS

COINCIDENCE means little to international sportsmen, but rugby union's five nations' championship starts in Paris tomorrow for the first time since 1988, which, coincidentally, is the last occasion on which England lost to France in the championship.

Then, as now, England were in the process of change. Les Cusworth, now the backs coach, was in the Indian summer of his playing career and Will Carling played his first international in the absence, through injury, of Simon Halliday and John Buckton.

"I thought it would be only one game for me, that one of the injured players would return," Carling said, reflecting on the one-point defeat with which his 62-cap career



CHAMPIONSHIP

began. One of his primary concerns eight years later is that the recent additions to the side stay and develop into true international forces. "I love playing at the Parc des Princes and I think Paris will bring out the best in us," he said before England's departure for a foggy Versailles. "I look at the potential of the young guys in the side and see very talented players. We need to harness the skills of the new

players rather than sticking to the plan which worked for the old side.

"This is probably the hardest game we have had against France for several years, but we have to be very positive about it. This is a young side and we have to be realistic about setting goals for such a team, but when England have their backs to the wall, they always produce a great performance."

Carling believes that the French plan to play a tactical game, with the transfer of Thierry Lacroix to stand-off half. Jean-Claude Skrela, their coach, has talked total rugby, but his players must first overcome the psychological stumbling block which England, after eight successive wins either at Twickenham or Parc des Princes, represent — even allowing for France's World Cup win in Pretoria last June.

"They're probably the most dangerous broken-field players in the world, and that's why we have to concentrate so hard when we come here," Carling said, "but they still fear England."

Olivier Merle has recovered from a slight back problem and will take his place in the France second row, where he has become a key figure.

Neil Francis and Simon Geoghegan trained at Old Belvedere yesterday before Ireland's opening fixture with Scotland at Lansdowne Road. Neither a bruised back nor a thigh strain inconvenienced the players who, with the rest of their colleagues, will take the field for the first time with the name of the team sponsor — Irish Permanent — on their jerseys.

Old Moore predicts, page 37
Moment of truth, page 40
Wealth of nations, page 40

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Survivors tell of rebel escape as Russian reporters scorn Kremlin claim of 'minimal losses'

Yeltsin portrays bloody fiasco as military triumph

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW AND CARLOTTA GALL IN KEMSI-YURT, DAGESTAN

PRESIDENT YELTSIN declared the assault on the southern Russian village of Pervomaiskoye over yesterday and tried to limit the political damage the bloodshed has caused him by saying that almost no hostages had been hurt.

The President, appearing on television for the first time in three days, said that the military operation "has been completed with minimal losses among the hostages and our men". However, there was widespread scepticism about Mr Yeltsin's version of events, not least from Russian correspondents near the front line who described the operation as a fiasco without a coherent plan for the rescue of the hostages.

Two hostages who survived the battle and ended up in hospital in a neighbouring village said a large group of rebels, including their leader, Salim Raduyev, had escaped during the night. According to one of the freed hostages, the Chechens broke out of the

besieged village with the help of a diversionary raid on the Russian lines staged by comrades from across the border.

Just hours after Russian commando units pulled out of the village and blanket fire began from multiple-rocket launchers, the Chechens made a successful break for freedom, carrying their dead with them.

"I think they got away," said Ali Aliev a former hostage in the hospital in Aksai, about six miles from Pervomaiskoye. "Maybe some *smertniki* stayed," he said, using the term for Chechen fighters who have decided to fight to the death.

Mr Aliev was among a group of hostages made to carry four wounded Chechens through the village and across the fields into Chechnya under a barrage of gun and rocket fire.

Another former hostage, Andrei Dubanenko, said that the gunmen had not executed any hostages, in contradiction of the Russian claims that at

least two captives were killed. That was used as a reason for launching the attack on the village.

Russian soldiers finally overran Pervomaiskoye yesterday afternoon, the fourth day of the battle. Artillery fire died off yesterday morning and virtually ceased by the afternoon. In the evening military jets flew overhead, but the guns were quiet.

The Interior Ministry said the bodies of 153 rebels had been found in and around Pervomaiskoye. Russian television pictures showed bodies in ditches and fields. Mr Yeltsin said that 82 captives had survived the battle, but 18 were still missing. Estimates of the number of hostages in the village have ranged from 100 to 200. Twenty-six Russian servicemen had died, the President said, while all the Chechen fighters had been "destroyed".

Condemnation of the President has focused on the civilian casualties, and official spokesmen spent much of the day denying reports that they had been high. Two days ago the spokesman for the FSB, the successor to the KGB, said all the hostages in the village were dead. Yesterday Mikhail Barsukov, the head of the FSB, said that they had not found a single dead hostage in the village.

Valeri Yakov, a reporter with *Izvestia* who spent three days sheltering just outside the village watching the assault, wrote yesterday that the shelling had been indiscriminate, even before the army brought in the multiple-rocket launchers on Wednesday. On one occasion rockets fell near Russian troops, who swore and cursed their commanders.

Mr Yeltsin said yesterday the Russian military might escalate the war in Chechnya and launch an offensive into the areas in the southern hills where General Dzhokhar Dudaev, the Chechen separatist leader, is based.



One of the pro-Chechen commandos threatening the Black Sea ferry hostages was filmed yesterday by a Turkish television cameraman, who had boarded the *Avrasya* as Ankara officials tried to persuade the gunmen to end the hijacking peacefully

Hijacked ferry is barred from Istanbul

FROM ANTHONY LOYD AND ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

THE bloody conclusion to the Russian operation in the village of Pervomaiskoye appears to have had little immediate impact on the security of the 160 hostages seized by Chechen sympathisers on a ferry off the Turkish coast.

As President Yeltsin announced yesterday that the action on the Dagestani border had ended, their vessel continued its laboured journey westwards, escorted by Turkish warships through heavy storms towards Istanbul, stopping 100 miles east of the city at nightfall, before starting off an hour later for its final destination.

Even though the gunmen aboard the Panamanian-flagged *Avrasya* had initially demanded that the Kremlin halt its operation in return for

the lives of Russian passengers on the boat, which they threatened to blow up, Turkish authorities appeared confident that their negotiations had succeeded in breaking this link.

"From the very start, we have tried to keep the two aspects of the hostage equation separate and independent," said Omer Akbel, of the Turkish Foreign Ministry. "We believe that we have achieved this."

The ferry halted near Karabuk Ereğli in the Black Sea east of Istanbul to allow further negotiations to take place between the hijackers and the Turkish authorities. The gunmen, led by Muhammad Tokcan, are Turkish nationals of Abkhazian origin, except for one Tartar. Many

Chechens fought alongside the Abkhazians in their war with Georgia three years ago.

Most notably among these was Shamil Basayev, the Chechen fighter who led last autumn's raid into southern Russia which also resulted in a hostage crisis and heavy fighting. Mr Tokcan and Mr Basayev reportedly know one another and have met in the Caucasus.

Though negotiators from the Turkish Interior Ministry, including members of the national intelligence service, initially agreed to allow the *Avrasya* to dock at Istanbul, where provision would be made for Mr Tokcan and his men to hold a press conference in return for the release of all the hostages and peaceful surrender of the gunmen.

efforts began yesterday to prevent the boat from entering the Bosphorus because of the explosives the hijackers say they have planted on board.

"That [passage to Istanbul] cannot be allowed, that is against our legal code," said Tansu Ciller, the Turkish Prime Minister, last night. "We are trying to stop the boat right next to Ereğli."

The Turks are in an invidious position. As fellow Muslims with historical connections to the Caucasus, their public sympathy for the Chechens runs high.

Yet because of their separatist problems with the Kurds and the need to maintain good diplomatic relations with the Russians, the Turks need to be seen to be acting with detachment towards the gunmen.



Tokcan: met Basayev, Chechen rebel chief

Muscovites stay cynical

Moscow: "The country is a mess and those in power are a mess," Pyotr Petukhov, an engineer, said contemptuously about the way Russia's latest crisis is being handled (Thomas de Waal writes).

The hostage drama in southern Russia appears to have lowered citizens' already low opinion of their rulers, if judgments voiced yesterday on Moscow's main shopping street, Novy Arbat, were any guide.

A great many of the Muscovites questioned thought the best option was to pull out and give the Chechens independence.

"We should get out of Chechnya," said Yevgeni Rakov, a lieutenant-colonel. "They are not Russians. All our lives we have fought with the Chechens and I do not understand what for."

"Chechnya was taken prisoner 100 years ago," argued Fyodor Pepinov, who works in a laboratory. "It does not want to be part of Russia."

Several spoke with anger of the Chechens, a people often associated in Moscow with crime and the mafia. "We should fight this war to the end," said Pyotr, a war veteran. "All our life we have fought the Chechens. They have traded and then stolen and robbed us."

President Yeltsin and his Government received a universally low rating. "The Government got into trouble because they underestimated the situation," said Igor, a middle-aged Muscovite.

Only one man, Mr Petukhov, volunteered that he would probably vote for Mr Yeltsin in June, but as a "lesser evil".

INQUIRY INTO LEGISLATION AGAINST TERRORISM.

The Government has announced that it is setting up an independent inquiry to look into the future need for counter terrorism legislation once peace has become established in Northern Ireland.

The Inquiry will consider what legislation will be needed to deal with the longer term threat from all kinds of terrorism.

The Inquiry is to be carried out by the Rt. Hon. Lord Lloyd of Berwick. He will be assisted by Sir Brian Kerr, a Northern Ireland High Court Judge, who will advise on Northern Ireland matters. Lord Lloyd will be consulting widely and he would like to receive comments and contributions from the public.

If you have any views relating to the law against terrorism which you would like Lord Lloyd to consider, please write to him at PO Box 9998, London SW1H 9ZB.

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Neo-Nazis blamed as asylum-seekers die in hostel blaze

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A BLAZE yesterday roared through a foreigners' hostel in Germany, killing at least nine people and raising fears of a new wave of racist-inspired violence.

Three masked men hurled petrol bombs into the house, which lies close to the historic centre of Lübeck in northern Germany, witnesses said. Police, unable to confirm the witness reports, refused to rule out the possibility of a technical defect until they were able to enter the glowing shell of the house.

But all signs yesterday seemed to point to arson. Three youths — one a skin-head carrying a far-right political biography — were detained close to the hostel and were being interrogated.

Detectives trawled through clubs and pubs frequented by neo-Nazi sympathisers. The hostel, a four-storey, timber-framed building, was recently given a clean bill after inspection by city surveyors, supporting the idea that an electrical fault was not to blame.

If the fire turns out to be politically motivated, it will be the worst such tragedy in four years of neo-Nazi arson. It is barely eight months since youths set ablaze the synagogue in Lübeck, the second such attack on the synagogue in two years.

The attack stirred memories of the Hitler era, and in particular the 1938 Kristallnacht, when synagogues were burnt down throughout Germany: the attacks stirred international outrage, but the culprits have never been found.

The two synagogue fires and the petrol bombing of a Turkish home in nearby Mölln in 1994 have given the area — previously regarded as one of the most tolerant parts of Germany — a reputation for being a nest of neo-Nazis.

The hostel was officially the temporary home of about 50 Africans, Asians and Arabs who were waiting for their asylum requests to be processed, but the number of people sleeping in the house in the early hours of yesterday morning was closer to 65.

Catalogue of violence

A pattern of racist attacks by the far Right has been established and, although there is now a larger gap between incidents, it has clearly not abandoned its violent agenda.

November 1992: Arson attack in Mölln, killing three Turks.

May 1993: Five Turks killed in Solingen fire.

March 1994: Lübeck synagogue set on fire.

May 1994: Forty drunken neo-Nazis chase and assault African students in the streets of Magdeburg.

July 1994: Vandals damage Buchenwald concentration camp.

September 1994: African student hurled out of moving train in Berlin.

Winter 1994-95: Turkish and foreign homes are repeatedly attacked.

May 1995: Lübeck synagogue set alight again.

Some threw themselves off the roof, clutching their babies. Others ran out with flames licking their pyjamas and scorching their hair. The death toll rose throughout the day: the nine confirmed dead included three children, with another child on the critical list. Twenty others were seriously injured, many of them with fractured skulls.

The fire underlines how fragile social peace has become in Germany. In 1993-1994, scarcely a week went by without some attack on foreigners.

Right-wing extremists, skin-heads and young thugs fell in love with their own brutality, boasting of their appearance on television in front of a blazing home or of drunken hunting expeditions against frightened foreign students and refugees.

The mood seemed to ease when liberal asylum laws were tightened. A few far-right parties were banned. Courts were encouraged to prosecute youths flaunting the swastika or making Hitler salutes. Police — sleepy, underpaid and under-equipped in eastern Germany — became more alert.

But the violence never entirely disappeared, it simply slipped beneath the surface. The far Right lost voters in the October 1994 general elections and continued to lose members throughout 1995, but the perverse romance of underground politics continued to draw young unemployed Germans. They have been organising intensely, using e-mail and the Internet to exchange information.

Lübeck is on the border of former East Germany — the



Firemen at the Lübeck hostel which was home to 65 Asians, Africans and Arabs

three youths detained yesterday came from Mecklenburg in the east — and is a short drive from Denmark, where some German-language neo-Nazi publications are printed. The neo-Fascist rock band, Kraftschlag, plays locally and, with its throbbing lyrics about the ugliness of foreigners, has

picked up a large following that goes well beyond the 2,500 officially described as right-wing extremists by the regional police.

In terms of sheer numbers these groupings are insignificant, but their xenophobic violence sends ripples of panic through the German political

establishment. Earlier this week President Weizman of Israel talked of the ghosts of the past and warned Germans to be vigilant about neo-Nazi activity. Many Germans regarded his comments as misplaced, exaggerated or out of date. The Lübeck fire may end that complacency.

Nato faces first test in policing Bosnian accord

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AMERICAN surveillance satellites, CIA teams, Nato reconnaissance helicopters and ground patrols will combine today to check whether the former warring factions in Bosnia-Herzegovina have complied with the first stage of the peace agreement signed in Dayton, Ohio.

For today is "D plus 30" when the Serb and Muslim/Croat forces should have withdrawn from the zones of separation that run two kilometres either side of an agreed ceasefire line.

It will be the crucial first test for Operation Joint Endeavour, the Nato-led mission to implement the accord, which by the middle of next month will involve about 60,000 troops from more than 30 countries.

Reconnaissance patrols have reported that all the warring factions appear ready to comply with the first deadline. Many troops have been dispersed.

By today all armed civilians should have been disbanded, all foreign military units, such as the 1,000 or so Mujahidin who fought with the Bosnian government forces, should have left the country, mines in the zones of separation should be destroyed or removed, and prisoners exchanged.

British troops in Bosnia, now numbering nearly 11,000 and building up to a total of 13,000 by next month, are spread across 20 locations, many in Serb territory. Army sources said the British units have developed good relations with the Serbs.

The British force, which has command of Nato's southwest sector, has three batteries of heavy guns, the new 155mm AS90 self-propelled artillery pieces and 28 helicopters.

American officials said US intelligence assets, including CIA teams, had offered to help to support Nato's peacekeeping mission and to ensure compliance by the former antagonists.

A key responsibility of the CIA was to warn against terrorist attacks on Nato forces, the American officials said. One fear was that Mujahidin fighters would pose a threat to American troops deployed in Bosnia: but Nato officials now seem confident that most have left.

About 100 Mujahidin are still in northwest Bosnia, near Bihac, but they are expected to be gone by today's deadline, once Croatia has given permission for them to travel to Zagreb for flights out of the country.

Another deadline is the removal of military forces from the Sarajevo zone of separation. Although the withdrawal appears to be on schedule, Nato commanders continue to face difficulties in persuading Sarajevo's Serb population of at least 70,000 to remain.

Sarajevo is due to be reunified by March 19 but many Serb residents fear retribution for the Serb bombardment of the city.

Richard Holbrooke, the US envoy and chief negotiator at the Dayton peace talks, flew into Sarajevo yesterday to see whether Bosnia's rival factions would meet the first deadline, which passes at midnight tonight.

One deadline is unlikely to be met. The Bosnian Government is still refusing to release Serb prisoners until the Serbs reveal the location of 24,000 Muslims it claims are missing. The official number of prisoners to be exchanged is only 900.

Simitis replaces Papandreou after cliffhanger election

FROM JOHN CARR IN ATHENS

GREECE'S ruling Socialists last night chose a former Industry Minister, Costas Simitis, to serve as Prime Minister until elections due in the autumn next year.

Mr Simitis, 59, beat his nearest rival,akis Tschatzopoulos, the Interior Minister, in a two-round cliffhanger by 36 votes to 75. After the ballot, Mr Simitis pledged "a new way of exercising power". He is favoured by Greek business for his technocrat talents, despite his professed centre-left orientation.

The 167 parliamentary deputies of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) spent most of this week working out

how to elect a new head of government from its ranks, after Andreas Papandreou, who has been critically ill for almost two months, resigned the premiership on Monday. The first round of the vote brought Mr Simitis to a dead heat with Mr Tschatzopoulos, with 53 votes each.

Gerasimos Arsenis, the Defence Minister who was considered a favourite to win the succession, was unexpectedly knocked out in the first round by Mr Tschatzopoulos, who had rallied those Socialist deputies still loyal to Mr Papandreou.

The result showed that a surprising portion of the

Pasok establishment is still under the spell of its ailing founder and leader. Mr Tschatzopoulos, a founder member of the party and Mr Papandreou's most trusted lieutenant, is the classic grey-suited apparition, preferring the art of quiet power-brokering over public display. He had deputised for Mr Papandreou throughout his illness, using his control over Pasok's party machine to twist the arms of waverers.

Mr Simitis, who has left few clues about his policy, is expected to follow Mr Papandreou's own practice of not making waves in relation to the European Union.

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'I am driven, and my children have suffered'

Very egalitarian, a desk on the open-plan office floor. Some little trick of positioning or physical presence, however, that — even to the optically-challenged — Esther is instantly visible from 25 yards.

There she is, head and shoulders above the milling hordes, poised on one of those swivel chairs designed to display the splendid Rantzen legs to maximum advantage. As always, centre stage.

The just-one-of-the-troops routine suitably established, we repair to Esther's boudoir — a nest so flounced and flower-sprigged that you might imagine yourself to be strolling in a John Lewis soft furnishings window display.

And yes, she admits rather unnecessarily, she does have a tendency to hog the limelight. Why, she still remembers the time, ten years ago, when she was summoned to hospital to hear the results of her husband, Desmond Wilcox's, heart tests.

"He was sitting in bed in this natty little green sleeveless dress, talking into a mobile phone. I thought it couldn't be that bad, but he told me he had to have open-heart surgery that afternoon."

Whereupon she fainted. "Esther," said Dessy severely, peering over the side of his trolley at the heap of designer suiting, sheeny tights and rhinestone rings loosely arranged on the floor. "Do get up. This is my moment."

"Well, I did see what he meant," says Esther, who is not so unsubtle that she cannot take a hint. Dessy, of course, recovered, and their marriage resumed a course that she regards as "challengingly idyllic".

"Esther," Desmond told her only the other day, as she was struggling to find a party frock. "You remind me of a circus elephant flapping in the wings." In the wings? Esther? Surely not. Even in Rantzen terms, this has been a high-profile time. Her BBC2 afternoon talk show *Esther* was this week firmly established as the runaway leader in the ratings. Yesterday the Princess of Wales launched an appeal for her charity, Childline. And, in a few weeks, BBC's *Hearts of Gold* begins a new series.

But it is *Esther* which has boosted her career and established her as the British Oprah Winfrey. "I don't mind that label, but I'm surprised. I said, I'm too ugly for this. Look at all the bags and sags and teeth and things."

I had met Esther some years ago and retained a vague memory of a straggly-haired, snaggle-toothed missionary, perspiring with zeal inside a shell of bus conductress maroon.

Nothing could be more at variance with the current image. Her hair is an artfully-fronched blonde bubble, her

Mary Riddell talks to Esther Rantzen about the successful relaunch of her career

black suit restrained and expensive, her complexion digestive-biscuit beige.

The equine side of Esther is no more. Gone is the catarrhal donkey laugh, gone the famous teeth — retracted now, through dentistry or willpower, behind a neat bow of frosted apricot lipstick.

So is it not a little disingenuous, Esther, to play the ugly-old-me card.



Esther Rantzen: "I never intend to cause offence"

when you are nothing of the kind? "I suppose I am vain. I once hoped that I could be charming and rather poignant, wearing the same tracksuit day in, day out. Then I realised you had to put in the time. Looking as good as you can is part of the job. People judge you."

In the past, this judgment has been harsh. The peevish complaints by those she thought her friends to the BBC's Director-General at the time of her affair with Desmond, then her married boss, have always rankled.

"If you have a job which is envied, there will always be people sniping round the edges. I try not to read it and hear it. At the time, it was like being felled. I'm beginning now to put it in a box marked 'probably true, but don't waste your time thinking about it'."

And so the shell was built up. Until recently, she refused all interviews, preferring "not to be chewed up and spat

out". Even now, there is a sort of self-protective restraint. She is effusive about her interviewees, passionate about her staff, and still there is the suspicion that this is the sanitised version.

That is not to say that she is not honest. For she is almost painfully so. Suggest that Desmond — who is not, as recently reported, profoundly deaf — drew the short straw in electing to leave his job at the BBC so that she could stay and prosper, and she denies it. "Desmond says that I have fame and he has reputation." Both have been dearly bought.

It is hard for Esther to admit that her most notable problem has been in raising her three teenage children. "I think they have been affected by the notoriety and my antisocial hours. It is hard to have two parents who are driven — and we are. I fall out of bed and go to the office. He falls out of bed and goes somewhere like Rwanda. It must give them less security, less tranquillity, and I do mind."

Rebecca, my second daughter, was 16 last week, and she was very scathing that I was in the studio. Joshua is 13 and told us that he would like to go to boarding school. He's now at Winchester. But the image which most belies the happy-family picture montage stuck behind the boudoir desk is that of Emily — at 18, so crippled with ME that she had to spend much of last summer in a wheelchair. Esther has not spoken before of her daughter's illness.

"I'm not saying that her illness has been caused by my job, or indeed Desmond's, but it might depress her. Whether the depression, which is a symptom, is also a cause, no one knows."

"She has muscular pain, very severe headaches and neckache, and disrupted sleep. It's traumatic for the family and very tough for her and her brother and sister."

"I have agonised about whether I can carry on being the full-time chairman of Childline. There are times when Emily is desperately ill, and I've had to leave a meeting to be with her. That's not fair to Childline or Emily, but at the moment she is stable, and I'm coping."

Esther is 55 now and, on her own admission, less brash, less defensive and just as autocratic as ever. "Yes, that's something I would change. I never intend to frighten people or cause offence, and I hope I'm not perceived like that." We are back now at the open-plan desk, and Esther is installed, business-like, on the swivel chair as the hubbub goes on around her.

I am passing the time of day with someone, but not for long. "Sssh," says an aide urgently. "Esther is making a phone call." Silence descends.



Philip Howard recounts a lifetime's struggle with a bad back

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Why my bad back will always be worse than yours

One man's odyssey with his spine from physiotherapy to Alexander, via a bottom-burning corset

The following axiom implies something unflattering about human nature, the subject that excites the widest public attention is not the weighty business of philosophy, politics, or economics. It is not even the light sex lives of celebrities, the miracle diet that will keep you young and beautiful for ever, or the preservation of animals with goo-goo eyes. It is backache. One twinge of backache makes the whole world kin.

To test this axiom you need only groan as you lever yourself up from the sofa. You will find that everybody suffers from a condition more excruciating and interesting than yours, and has discovered the only cure.

When I was first struck down, I hobbled to work doubled-up, down Tube and

I believed pain would go away if treated with contempt

and she laid me down and pummelled me, and sold me lumbar cushions for the small of my back. I still use them, though the office one sheds so much foam rubber that Thérèse has re-bounded it in a pair of old tights. After about three weeks, the back pain went away, and I wrote a piece about physios which caused my personal trainer offence and brought in a huge post.

Every winter since then, towards the onset of Christmas, my backache recurs.

A retired general from Basingstoke threatens to cure me by swinging a pendulum above my back. A friend sent me a corset dangling hot-water bottles, and I burnt my bottom. For my next bad go, I looked up an alternative-medicine chiropractor, and crawled down to his office late at night. I could not boast myself up to reach the bell, and had to wait until he came to the door to see what had happened to me. After weeks of intrusive massage, I could stand upright again. For this relief much thanks.

Next year I went for Shiatsu, recommended as the only remedy for backache by another persuasive colleague, also with a much worse back than mine. His Shiatsu black-



Has a relaxed Philip Howard finally found the cure?

belt sold me a therapeutic trampoline, from which I hit my head on the ceiling when I use it (not a lot). When he attempted his pressure-point massage on me at home, all three Jack Russells, granny, daughter and granddaughter, came to the relief of my groaning friend with tooth and yap. So after that my Shiatsu master visited me at the office during the lunch-break. But one day, while I was lying on the mat groaning, while Shiatsu-san, in leotard and bare feet, bounced on top of me, Christine, the Editor's secretary, passed by. And her imperceptibly raised eyebrow cured me of Shiatsu.

But now I have to tell you that I have cracked the problem. I am a student of the Alexander Technique, as are many actors and others who depend on their bodies. I am not yet a true believer in the jargon. But there seems sense in darning braces and blessing relaxes. I fall asleep in the resting position, and Sam the cat sleeps on my stomach. I can levitate from the chair as smoothly as a rocket. I sit relaxed in front of my screen instead of hunched, and adopt the resting position in spite of mockery of friends and alarm of the Russells. Backs are not funny. But once they stop hurting, they are true bliss.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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NO MORE MR VICE GUY

From rude dude to new prude, Andre Agassi is in danger of being boring. The Magazine



THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

IT IS AN addiction, no doubt about it, and one that costs me hundreds of pounds each year. A morning without it leaves me trembling, pale and irritable; a whole day is unthinkable. I would love to kick the habit, but I am terrified of the cold turkey I would undergo. Diet Coke rules my life.

On any visit to a new country, my desire for adventure is tempered with a gnawing anxiety. Who cares if the country is on the brink of civil war, if I speak not a word of the language or the monsoon has just started? All that matters is whether Diet Coke is available. Last year's Glastonbury Festival was marred by the discovery that the right-on organisers had banned evil Coke with its smackings of multinationalism, in favour of Virgin Cola.

I draw strength from the fact that I am not alone in my Diet Coke-aholism. Last week, Daniel Finkelstein, the head of the research department at Conservative Central Office,

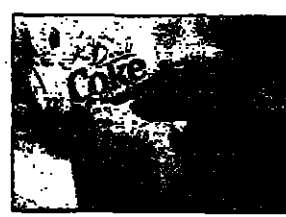


SIGN OF THE TIMES

by Julia Jewell

was forced out of the closet when his fridge exploded. There were no casualties, but Mr Finkelstein, 33 and teetotal, was obliged to confess to having overloaded the fridge with Diet Coke cans, which had frozen and exploded when the thermostat broke down.

Other Diet Coke drinkers include Kelvin MacKenzie, the former Editor of the Sun, Russell Grant, the astrologer, and the golfer John Daly, who toasted his win at last year's British Open with a glass of the stuff. The Rolling Stones have a regular order when touring for 18 cans to be waiting for them in their hotel. Diet Coke fiends all agree that what they drink must be



Diet Coke break

the Real Thing, not Pepsi. It must be drunk straight from the can, just like the man in the "Diet Coke break advert" and it must be Diet, although few addicts actually need to lose weight.

No one can explain this bizarre compulsion. Wendy Irvine of Coca-Cola says: "You can't be addicted to Diet Coke."

We are delighted that millions of people enjoy a nice cold can just for the taste of it.

"I probably drink about five cans a day," Mr Finkelstein says. "I'm not sure why it's so addictive. People say it's the caffeine, but I'm not convinced. My habit began when I was a student, but it really took off when I was working as a journalist and had a desk near the Diet Coke machine."

"Then I went to work at the Social Market Foundation, which was a haven of Diet Coke drinkers. Lord Skidelsky and Lord Kilmer, both began to drink it, although they aren't addicts."

"It can be a social embarrassment, ordering Diet Coke wherever I go, but I am determined to make it a respectable habit."

"I was once at the Reform Club with a former director of the research department and I ordered a Diet Coke. The waiter brought two. 'This grand old man cried 'Good God, not The pop is for him!'"

'Her life revolved around Philip'

■ Shared love and simple pleasures: our exclusive serialisation of *Elizabeth* continues, focusing on the royal marriage in its blissful early days before the King's death changed everything

Perhaps because of his early experiences of having no money of his own, Philip was careful with it. Thrift seems to be a royal characteristic. In those days the women of the family used to send their stockings to Harrods to be repaired. On the other hand, they were generous tippers.

When Elizabeth and Philip went to stay, as they often did in the first years of their marriage, with Philip's relations, the Brabourns, in their two converted farm cottages at Mersham-le-Hatch in Ashford, Kent, the butler and cook would get £3 each, graduating down to £1 for the most junior member of staff — while a visit to the Duke of Beaufort's vast house, Badminton in Gloucestershire, could cost them £20 in tips.

Beyond tipping and church collections, when Bobo (Margaret MacDonald, Elizabeth's dresser) and Dean (John Dean, butler and later Philip's valet) would dole out the requisite amount — half a crown for the "family" churches at Sandringham, Windsor and Balmoral, a more ostentatious £1 for "strange" ones — the royals never carried money or dealt in cash.

Shopping would be charged to accounts which would be settled by Boy Browning, Comptroller of the Household, and the Clerk Comptroller at Clarence House, ex-naval Petty Officer Leslie Treby.

Both Elizabeth and Philip had simple tastes in food and drink. Philip never had more than coffee and toast for breakfast: often before Elizabeth came down at 8.45 he would have left for the staff canteen at Greenwich Royal Naval College, which he had begun early in 1948. By then John Gibson, one of whose duties as second footman was to attend to the corgis, Susan and Crackers, would have taken them out of the garden-room where they slept and walked them round a small garden in St James's Palace.

Each morning when Elizabeth came down for breakfast, he would be waiting for her at the bottom of the stairs with the dogs, hand her her newspapers and serve her breakfast (bacon and eggs and her favourite bread scones made by Betty the kitchenmaid).

"She'd talk quite a lot about everyday things while I was serving," he recalled. "She had a lovely sense of humour and she enjoyed a good laugh." While she was breakfasting, he would take in the daily menu book with suggestions for lunch and dinner that day and for the following day's breakfast. She made her comments, finished the newspapers, then went upstairs to work on her correspondence with her lady-in-waiting. On most mornings she would slip out, unnoticeable in old mackintosh and headscarf, to walk the corgis in St James's Park, always shadowed by her detective, Frank Lusher.

Elizabeth was no cat-lover — a pedigree Siamese which she had been given as a wedding present was handed over to the cook at Windlesham Moor, a house which the Edinburs had rented in Surrey — but she adored her dogs. Even though there were only two corgis in the royal pack in those days (a third, Biscuits, had fought with the others and been given to Dean), the corgi ritual was already established.

Each afternoon at 4.30, the footman would lay a tray with a cloth, silver spoons and forks, a plate of biscuits, a plate of chopped meat, a plate of vegetables and jug of gravy, so that Elizabeth could feed the corgis herself before having

her own tea — her favourite meal — at 5pm.

Tea, served in what Gibson described as a £5,000 silver teapot, would be Earl Grey blend, sometimes Indian, and there would be cucumber sandwiches, wafer-thin bread and butter, potted meat, and chocolate cake freshly made every day by Betty.

Like her mother, Elizabeth has a weakness for chocolate, but she has always been abstemious with alcohol and in those days drank nothing but orange juice with her meals, barely touching a glass of wine when dining out. Philip would have a glass of beer with lunch, a gin and tonic in the evening.

Dinner when they were at home alone together would be very simple, sometimes just cold meat and salad or sausage and mash, with perhaps a savoury afterwards.

The plain food served upstairs contrasted with the abundance enjoyed downstairs. According to Gibson: "That sort of meal might be all right for the royals, but it wasn't good enough for the staff. Mrs Barnes [the cook] knew only too well that if she served up that sort of thing to the servants, she soon wouldn't have any. Downstairs in the servants' hall... they'd sit down to a three-



was a family get-together to celebrate the doctors' favourable report and a send-off for the Princess and the Duke, who were to fly off for their antipodean state visit the next morning.

When they were photographed sitting together, the King's face was so finely drawn as to resemble a death mask, although he looked not old but youthful. Both his daughters looked younger than their years, too. It was as though the family, on the verge of dissolution, had gone back in time.

The next day, January 31, the King took the unusual step of going as far as Heathrow airport to see his daughter off to Kenya, the first stage of her journey. He stood hatless in the cold wind, his eyes with the straining, glaring look they took on in moments of emotion. In his heart of hearts he knew that he was, in Churchill's phrase, "walking with death" and that there was always a possibility he might not see his beloved daughter again.

Churchill, who was with him at the airport, described him as "gay and even jaunty: [he] drank a glass of champagne, think he knew he had not long to live."

Bobo told Dean that he had said "look after the Princess for me, Bobo", and that she had never before seen him so upset at parting from her.

He died, suddenly and without warning, of a thrombosis in his sleep at Sandringham, just six days later in the early hours of February 6, 1952. His daughter became Queen in Kenya as she sat on the platform of the Treetops Hotel in the branches of a giant wild fig tree, watching and photographing the animals at the salt-lick.

On guard at the foot of the tree stood a famous "white hunter", Jim Corbett, armed with a heavy-calibre rifle, ostensibly to protect the Princess from wild elephants but also, unknown to her, from possible attack by the Mau Mau terrorists who might be in the area.

Unaware that her father had died, she and Philip returned to Sagana Lodge, their wedding present from the people of Kenya, to prepare for their journey down to Mombasa to embark on the SS *Gothic* for New Zealand and Australia. No news came from Buckingham Palace, nor even from the BBC.

Sir Edward Ford, the King's assistant private secretary, believes that the Palace telegram announcing the King's death which had been dispatched to Kenya was never sent because the telegraphist took the agreed code "Hyde Park Corner" as the address and not the message, while, at the BBC, the men in charge had decided that only the distinguished broadcaster John Snagge had a voice of sufficient dignity for such an announcement — but they couldn't find him.

Philip's friend Michael Parker was alerted by telephone to what had happened by Elizabeth's private secretary, Martin Charteris, who had heard the news from a journalist at the Outspan Hotel where he had gone to lunch. Parker crept around outside the house to attract the attention of Philip, and beck-

oned him out on to the lawn.

The news struck Philip like a thunderbolt. It was a moment he had been dreading — the end of his independent life. "He looked as if you'd dropped half the world on him," Parker recalled.

"I have never felt so sorry for anyone in all my life."

It was 2.45pm local time, 11.45am in London, when he told his 35-year-old wife that she had become Queen of Great Britain, her Dominions and possessions beyond the seas.

Martin Charteris, who had dashed up from the Outspan Hotel after telephoning the news to Parker, found the new Queen "very composed, absolute master of her fate". She was sitting drafting papers, a slight flush on her face the only sign of emotion.

"What are you going to call yourself?" he asked. "My own name, of course. What else?" she replied.

■ Edited extracts from Elizabeth, A Biography of Her Majesty the Queen, to be published by William Heinemann on January 24, £20.

© Sarah Bradford 1996



En route to a presentation, 1963. Although he adapted well to his public role, at first Philip missed his independent life



All smiles at Princess Anne's christening, 1950

'Dinner when they were at home alone together would be simple — sausage and mash, perhaps'

course dinner, or high tea as they called it — soup, then perhaps fish and chips, then a pud — jam tart and custard or gooseberry pie and cream.

There would be a hearty cooked breakfast every day except Sunday — when they had to make do with boiled eggs, mid-morning coffee and biscuits — a two-course lunch and tea and cakes at 4pm. The staff also had all the leftovers from the royal table — shared with the corgis.

Elizabeth's existence revolved around Philip. Crawfie describes her as standing at 4.30 every afternoon at the window of her room in Buckingham Palace, waiting "to see the tall, lean figure coming past the fountain in the centre of the road outside the Palace, or to see his small sports car turn in at the Palace gates. Usually a deal too fast..."

On January 30, 1952, the King, the Queen, the Edinburs and Margaret, with Peter Townsend in attendance and other friends, went to a performance of *South Pacific* at the Drury Lane Theatre. It

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TOMORROW

■ Sarah Bradford on the past week: and the childhoods of Elizabeth and Philip.

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BRADFORD

Philip Howard



■ Whether duchesses are top people or not, they demand top overdrafts

Are duchesses top people? Like policemen, they are growing younger. This may be because our native image of the duchess as an old trout was formed by the peppery Red Duchess in *Wonderland* and by Trollope. An older tradition of duchesses as pretty young trollops spilling out of their cleavages was created by Lely at the Restoration court, and by the French duchess at the Versailles of the Sun King who asserted: "A duchess is never more than 30 to a bourgeois."

"Damn!" cried the duchess "was once considered a riveting beginning to a book, combining snobbery, sensationalism and bad language. The expletive would have to be strengthened to catch attention today. And the image of the Duchess Herself is changing in our society, resentful as it is of hierarchy, deference, and capital initial letters for titles. It is no accident that the current (brilliant) production of *The Duchess of Malfi* directs the line "I am Duchess of Malfi still!" to be delivered not as a proud war-cry but as a flaky giggle."

But it is clear from the misadventures of the Duchess of York that whether or not duchesses are still top people, they still demand top salaries and top overdrafts. And it would help if their strangely familiar children's books about helicopters could take off towards the top of the bestseller lists. In this levelling age, top is a power word. The most memorable advertising slogan for our own dear organ in the 1960s was "Top people take *The Times*". It made its way into the reference books, and is still used as an exemplary slogan.

Even then this seemed true but elitist. When Claud Cockburn applied for the job of New York correspondent of *The Times*, he was invited to write a state-of-the-nation survey of America, and so he polished and agonised and delivered. The head of the Washington bureau, Sir Wilfrid Lewis, read his piece through with awful deliberation. Then he tore it into pieces and dropped it into the wastepaper basket. And said: "Mr Cockburn, you must always remember that when writing for the newspapers, you are writing for an elderly lady in Hastings who has two cats of which she is passionately fond. Unless our stuff can successfully compete for her interest with those cats, it is no good. And, on this occasion, I have to tell you that the cats win." Hastings, elderly and lady were regionalism, ageism and sexism of a bygone age. But no sensible paper, least of all *The Times*, wants to restrict itself to top people. Intelligent, witty people of all classes and socio-economic categories will do.

The Anglo-Saxon monosyllable top is also making its way into French. It used to mean the time-pip. *Au quatrième top, il sera exécuté*. At the fourth stroke it will be exactly... *Le Grand Robert en Sept Volumes* records an artificial silent top time-signal. So if some French advertising man holds up a placard saying, "Shut up and sod off!", it will be a comfort to know that this is only a top artificial.

But the French dictionaries spurn the tip-top as an odious François borrowing. The examples given are *top model*, *top man*, *on parle même de top niveau* (top rank), *Tu parles, Charles, on en parle tout le temps*. The interesting question is why, and I think it has to do with our unease about league tables. The top talk is by no means restricted to the puffery of advertising. A famous chef from Alsace used to provide a *buffet top niveau*. This is a noun in apposition, such as *pulls homme*, a chap's pullover. The fight against nouns in apposition was mistaken and lost long ago. But in French, top conveys admiration and even wonderment that would be absent from *de première classe*. The contexts are different. You might say, if annoyed, *c'est un salaud de première*, but not *c'est un salaud top niveau*. The pejorative connotation is missing.

Yes, duchesses are still top people. But height is not necessarily an advantage, in celebrity, stature or overdraft. The tyrant of Miletus, Thrasylabus, gave his advice about top people by cutting the head off the tallest stalks of wheat, as an example of how to downsize ambitious rivals by topping them. The wise duchess (an oxymoron) keeps her head down.



"SAME OLD BACK PROBLEM I'M AFRAID, DOCTOR..."

Cry the betrayed comrades

The Labour candidate for Exeter, who betrayed his friends to the apartheid regime, has no place in Parliament

How long ago it was, how long! How long ago it was that apartheid ruled in South Africa and black men and women were thought of as creatures hardly different from animals! How long ago it was when white men as well as black could be, and were, thrown into jail on the slightest pretext and kept there for years! How long it was, how long, the time that Nelson Mandela spent in prison for disagreeing with the dreadful rulers of South Africa! (To be exact, it was 26 years.) How long ago it was that Alan Paton wrote *Cry the Beloved Country*, and because by then his name was so widely known around the world, the rulers of his beloved country did not dare to imprison him or have him silenced!

Yes, it was a long time ago, and Nelson Mandela has since shaken hands with the wicked and absolved them. And so, at last, we can shut that door for ever, can we not?

No, for some of the graves in that story are still crying out for justice, and as the earth heaves, they say that their voices will never fade until that which was wrong is put right.

Now for the story. It starts with John Lloyd, and I should first warn you that Mr Lloyd is putting his own case and is not exactly rushing to give the other side, where he might find an argument or two. Yet this is a truly tragic story and it has many facets. Mr Lloyd, when he lived in South Africa, hated apartheid, as any decent person would, and he conspired with others to do as much damage to the hated State as they could. To this end they blew up electricity pylons, radio masts, and suchlike, but, he says, did not seek to kill or injure any person, however steeped in apartheid evil.

One of the leaders at the head of the organisation Mr Lloyd had joined — they called themselves the African Resistance Movement — was Hugh Lewin, and although he and his band did not expect to topple apartheid, they were sufficiently successful to make the forces of government think them a serious danger. So far, so good. But then came the news that Lewin and others had been caught. One of these was John Lloyd himself, and he was in turn imprisoned and interrogated.

Then came the bomb — the bomb that brought down not a pylon, but a human being: Ethel Rhys was killed by a bomb deliberately left on a bench in a

Johannesburg railway station by one John Harris. (There is a tiny clue to the feelings of John Lloyd. He has written about the bomb and its aftermath, but it seems that the pain, understandably, precludes him writing anything about the dead woman and even her surviving granddaughter.)

Now the pace quickens. John Harris was caught (and subsequently hanged). Lloyd had said that he would not testify against his mates — Hugh Lewin and the rest — though he did. But he did something else, and that something is what the brand-mark on his soul denotes. He sang like any canary, thus:

I agreed to give evidence against Harris because he had so violated our code. I can't know whether I would have made a different decision had I been at liberty, or if I had shared a cell with colleagues.

Do you shudder, reader? I did, when I first read Lloyd's apology; that phrase "he had so violated our code" (that is, that they would not harm other people). Was he playing God? Or was he the arbiter in a truly difficult position? It is difficult to say, but those who still have him would, I suppose, call him a stool-pigeon.

Whatever went through Lloyd's mind as he turned state's evidence against his comrades, it must have been a dreadful blow — not only, of course, to Harris, but to all his former comrades. And having done his work — it is time for another shudder — Lloyd was given immunity from prosecution and moved to London. (Well, if he had still been in South Africa when any of the men he fingered finished their terms and got out, Lloyd might have lost a lot of teeth at the very least.)

Let the dead bury the dead. But the dead will not stay dead. This story is only half way through, and more pain, much more, will be left. Because, you see, the figures in the story didn't vanish when they left the

stage; Hugh Lewin went to prison for seven years because Lloyd betrayed him. He also betrayed Baruch Hirson, who was in the same boat, and who went to prison for nine years. Dreadful, it is very easy to point a finger, but we the conditions in which the fingers were pointed. Young men, facing years of prison, will look at horror, and turn away.

Lewin, understandably, would spit in Lloyd's face if they met, and that is not just a figure of speech: Lewin says that Lloyd is "a Judas Iscariot who should have the decency to piss off out of politics".

And Baruch Hirson says of Lloyd that "The fact of the matter is that such a man is not fit to hold public office, particularly since he made no effort to apologise to any of us or to John Harris's widow. Such a man is not fit to hold public office."

And Harris's widow herself says: "What he has done is not honourable. Worse than that, it is ignoble. He should stand down."

And Glynis Burleigh, whose grandmother was killed by the Harris bomb, and has had to have 40 skin grafts from the effects of it, says: "Unlike him, I could not run away to England and begin a new life." Refusing to forget Mr Lloyd's history, she said: "He cannot whitewash the past and pretend it did not happen. He is not a fit candidate."

But what is all this about politics, public office, candidates and standing down? It stems from the extraordinary fact that John Lloyd, with a past like his, is trying to become an MP — a Labour MP, for Exeter.

Take him back all those years: assuredly he cannot have forgotten them. Here is a young man who thought, not ignobly, that to set bombs among machinery would be to bring a moment or two nearer the purging of South Africa's

apartheid evil. But then, after a time, the world shifts for him: he who was betrayed, betrays in turn: who would not betray under torture? But what his erstwhile comrades will never forgive was that John Lloyd gave evidence in court against his comrades, who went to prison and stayed there for years. Later on, Lloyd sought to be an MP, and he is now close to becoming one, on the Labour side. (If you open the window, you can hear Tony Blair groaning.)

Over the years, we have had all kinds of people in our Parliament, Commons and Lords: some have been very good, and some of them have been very bad indeed. Some have lived a very pure life, while others haven't. Even in my lifetime, I have seen more than one MP thrown out for behaviour that even the House of Commons could not stomach. (The members of the House of Lords, being peculiar *ab initio*, don't count in this examination.) But I do really, I do really think, that somewhere in this complicated world a line must be drawn. And I do really think — I do, I do, I do — that the line in question must be drawn on the unsunny side of Mr Lloyd becoming an MP.

Interviewed when he was seeking the Exeter candidacy, he spoke of being arrested for his political views, and said: "I was arrested and detained without trial for about 120 days. I didn't think I was a revolutionary and I didn't think I could keep quiet after that, so I decided to leave."

A reasonable reply, though he might have added a word or two about the planting of bombs, let alone the betrayal of John Harris.

I conclude with two versions of Lloyd: the first is his.

I was approached by a very hostile woman... who asked me to sign an affidavit saying my evidence against John Harris was untrue. I first of all agreed, and then I thought it through. Such a withdrawal would have been of no weight...

And the second version is from Jill Chisholm (a journalist, friend to another accused):

With Harris on death row... she... came to London to plead with Lloyd to retract his evidence... He was not prepared to change his evidence or make any statement or any ceremony bid at all. My impression was that he was concerned about how people would view him if he retracted his evidence.

Choose your partners. But don't choose Lloyd for our Parliament.

Is there anybody there?

Nigel Hawkes on chances of life in other solar systems

Among the billions of stars in the heavens, it has long seemed likely that some are accompanied by planets not so very different from the Earth. But statistical analysis is one thing, actual evidence another.

That is why the claim made by an American astronomer to have detected a distant planet that may have water flowing on its surface is so sensational. For the first time, the enjoyable speculation that has flourished for a century about the chances of finding life elsewhere in the universe has been brought into focus.

If a planet has oceans and rain, then there is no logical reason why it should not have life. And if it has life, the chances of intelligent life cannot easily be dismissed.

That may seem a huge imaginative leap from the bare facts presented to the American Astronomical Society by Professor Geoffrey Marcy of San Francisco State University, but every step of the argument is defensible. He reported that two stars — one in the constellation of Virgo, and the other in the Great Bear — behave as if they have planets in orbit around them.

Planets emit no light, and are far too small to see at these distances, so their existence has to be inferred from the wobbles they impart to their parent stars. Three months ago, two Swiss astronomers reported the possible existence of a planet around the star 51 Pegasi, but its orbit was so close to the star that its temperature would be broiling.

Much more exciting is the planet identified by Professor Marcy's team in orbit around the star called 70 Virginis. Though apparently huge — about eight times larger than Jupiter — it is sufficiently remote from its Sun-like star to have a temperature of about 185°F. While this is pretty close to boiling, there are bacteria on Earth that flourish in conditions not so very different.

Hot springs and deep thermal vents on the ocean floor, where the heat of the Earth's mantle leaks upwards into the crust, are home to extremophiles, bugs that live in extreme conditions. "Life is now possible," Professor Marcy said. "There is a harbour, a site, on which life might form."

The other new planet could also have water. It is roughly as far from its star, 47 Ursae Majoris, as the Earth is from the Sun, and has an orbital period of just over three years. Three times as massive as Jupiter, this planet appears to be part of a solar system that resembles ours. "It almost smells like the planets in our own solar system," Professor Marcy said.

While both of these new planets are remote — about 35 light years away — they are not unimaginably remote. While travel to them is not in prospect, communication would not be impossible. Astronomers in Australia and at Arecibo in Puerto Rico are preparing to turn their radio telescopes towards the two stars in the hope of detecting a signal, while the Hubble Space Telescope will be used to take pictures of the stars.

I would of course defy the laws of probability if the first two potential planets found by man turned out to be home to intelligent life. The odds against that are as great as those against winning the National Lottery. For life to evolve, many factors have to be just right: a star of the right size, accompanied by a planet of the right mass and in the right orbit to provide a habitable world.

Had our own Sun been just a tenth larger, increased ultraviolet radiation would have made life on Earth impossible. Had the Earth's orbit been even slightly different, the planet would have become too cold or too hot before life could have evolved.

Despite this, the odds do favour there being life elsewhere, if only because of the huge numbers of stars in the sky. There are a hundred billion stars in our own galaxy, and billions of galaxies to choose from. Although the odds against life on any given star are vanishingly small, the multitude of stars makes it, in the view of many astronomers, inevitable that life has evolved in more than one place.

Some remain sceptical. When the argument was put to the Italian physicist Enrico Fermi, he responded: "OK, but where is everybody?" It is a question that still waits for an answer, because in spite of searches using radio telescopes, no hint of an alien signal has ever been detected.

This may be no bad thing. The implications of discovering intelligence elsewhere would be disconcerting. We have only recently achieved technical sophistication, so the odds are that any intelligent civilisation elsewhere would be more advanced than us, while less developed ones would not yet have the power to send signals.

How would we react to the discovery that we are, in relative terms, still in the Stone Age? Even if the aliens were friendly, our culture would be swamped by theirs as surely as those of aboriginal peoples were by the arrival of Europeans. This is why an astronomer once remarked: "If the cosmic telephone rings, for God's sake let's not answer."

The issue remains academic, for the time being. But the discovery of potential worlds in outer space is a momentous one, nonetheless. Scientists often claim that a discovery has opened a new era, but for once that does not sound like an exaggeration.

Lilley livered

ALL EYES will be on Norman Lamont as he struggles this evening to retain some momentum in his once-mighty political career fighting to become Conservative candidate for Harrogate.

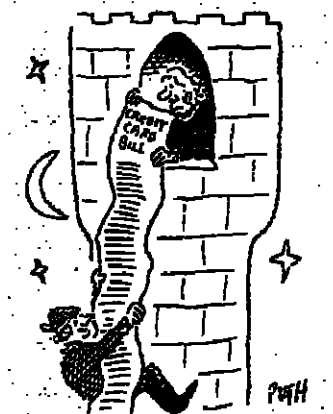
But spare a thought for Peter Lilley, the Secretary of State for Social Security, whose future is also on the line. He will battle through the ordeal of the Conservative chicken-run tonight at Hilsdon and Harpenden against another minister, John Warr, the strutting Minister of State for Transport. The local association is meeting to decide which of four candidates — the ministers and two others — will be its candidate. Lilley will not be contesting his present St Albans seat, despite his 16,500 majority, because boundary changes mean that thousands of secure Tory votes will be going to neighbouring constituencies.

As Lilley is rather small, so Warr is rather large. A burly rooster of a man, his majority of 514 at Slough is made even more precarious by the boundary changes, and is likely to be overturned by Labour.

"It's like Laurel and Hardy

bickering, since they're on the run," says a Labour source. "Not very dignified at all."

On the radio in Washington, Salman Rushdie complained that he had been turned away from the Vermeer exhibition. "I very much wanted to go," he said. "The lady in charge at the gallery refused me permission — even though she had been told by the local police in Washington that they felt there was no problem." Shortly after his radio appearance, the *National*



Gallery of Art called him up and welcomed him in.

Grrrr

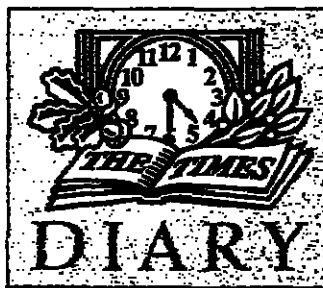
ONE HALF of the Tory party's favourite advertising team, Charles Saatchi, was trawling for talent at the Contemporary Art Fair in Islington on Wednesday. He chose, eventually, to buy a geometric work by one Jonathan Goslan.

A large white pentagonal do-decahedron to be suspended from a ceiling, Mr Saatchi's purchase is titled *Not Without an Element of Frustration*. Which fairly sums up the Saatchi brothers' task in marketing John Major.

Unkind cut

THE *Daily Mirror* teamed up recently with the police to sponsor an impressive amnesty for knife-wielding criminals, in which they were invited to discard their weapons. The move was successful — dustbins across the country were filled with knives — and the *Mirror* has since been applying its intellect to the question of what to do with its collection of steel.

One suggestion from the newspaper is that they should be melted down to make a plaque for St George's School, Maida Vale, in commemoration of Philip Law-



rence, the headmaster who was fatally stabbed. "The idea is to make something beautiful out of something horrible," said a spokesman for the paper. Perhaps not.

True to her extravagant form, the Duchess of York travelled first class to New York yesterday — and she paid every penny for the luxury. "She's the only one of the royals who is always honest enough to ask for a first-class ticket," said an airline source. "The others simply buy cheap tickets and expect to be upgraded."

Knit wit

SIR COLIN DAVIS, the London Symphony Orchestra's principal conductor, who was installed as the new Pipemaker of the Year amid billowing fog at the Savoy this week, has been swapping his

baton for needles. When off duty, he likes nothing better than chewing on his pipe as he knits the family wardrobe.

"My wife wanted to find something that would be too difficult for me to do — so she came home with a knitting pattern and dozens of balls of wool. I sat down and got cracking. I've knitted about nine very fancy garments for my wife — jackets, jumpers and sweaters with floral designs and complex patterns."

A frightful mistake for Ann Widdecombe, the Home Office minister, to nod her head in sage agreement as she sat on the front bench at Prime Minister's Question Time. Television cameras showed up a badger-like stripe of grey bisecting the parting of her jet-black dyed hair. "She's got more roots than an oak," coughed an astonished member on the opposite benches.

Union pride

JANE AUSTEN continues to excite the young bloods at Oxford. So much so that the Union has invited the entire corset-clad cast from the BBC's *Pride and Prejudice* to a forum this term to discuss their dramatic triumph.

Colin Firth will smoulder once again as Mr Darcy, in the debat-



Chancellor: revisit

ing chamber, and Anna Chancellor will interfere as Miss Bingley. Both Mr and Mrs Bennet will attend, and the oleaginous cousin, Mr Collins, will slip in as well. Eliza Bennet will be absent, however, to the disappointment of many. "We had hoped to get Jennifer Ehle too, but she was busy," says Jonathan Wolf, president of the Union. "But there is consolation in Anna Chancellor."

P.H.S



THE PACE QUICKENS

Major may not have the luxury of waiting

The pace of politics has suddenly accelerated. Yesterday's revelation in *The Times* of an incipient anti-Major plot among senior Tories was swiftly followed by a completely unexpected cut in interest rates. A few hours later the Government announced a White Paper on Europe, another development as surprising as it was welcome.

The central assumption is still that John Major will prolong the life of the Parliament until the spring of next year — if he possibly can. With the economy showing more signs of pulling out of last year's mid-cycle doldrums, he will want to wait as long as possible for voters to feel the benefits of the modest Budget tax reductions and of recent interest rate cuts. Like any rational politician, he will be reluctant to call a contest as long as his party trails so badly in the polls. But with the political tempo increasing, Mr Major could yet be denied the luxury either of waiting or of choosing his own time.

Tactically, the revelation about a possible leadership challenge may actually help Mr Major, since public discussion of this story may help to flush out potential plotters and scare away those tempted to join, it also allows John Redwood to put down a public marker against a "bloodless" transfer of power to Michael Heseltine.

But whatever the immediate tactical advantages, this new evidence of instability and disaffection at the heart of the Tory establishment does further damage to the credibility of Mr Major's leadership in the party and the country at large. The May local elections now loom as an even more daunting obstacle in Mr Major's path.

The planned publication of the White Paper on Europe is an extremely welcome move. It will do much to calm those senior critics in the Centre Right of the party whose manoeuvrings we reported yesterday. More importantly, it should help to harden the Tory commitment to an unwavering defence of national sovereignty in both the inter-governmental conference and the general election. But the White Paper will also make party management on the Left more difficult for Mr Major until an election is called.

The state of the economy could also force

an acceleration of the electoral timetable, now that the management of monetary policy seems to have moved decisively into political mode. Yesterday's cut in interest rates was overdue and therefore desirable from an economic standpoint, but its timing seemed to owe more to political calculation than to the economic run.

The fact that the Governor of the Bank of England failed to endorse the Chancellor's action was not in itself a cause for concern. The Governor's judgments on monetary policy have proved consistently too deflationary in the past and, if the Chancellor had to override him again, he was right to do so. What was perplexing, however, was the absence of any economic reason for the Chancellor to decide on a second rate cut so soon after the one of December 13.

Yesterday's economic statistics were, if anything, slightly stronger than expected a month ago. December's statistics could easily have justified an immediate reduction from 6.75 to 6.25 per cent. The economic logic of a quarter point cut before Christmas and another quarter point yesterday was much harder to understand.

Political logic was another matter. Before the new year the Government was undoubtedly planning to play a long game to the general election. If the Chancellor cut interest rates too aggressively, he might have been forced to start raising them again by early 1997. He might also have weakened the case for an expansionary pre-election Budget in November. If, however, there is now a serious chance that the Government may not be able to survive until the end of 1996, the political calculation is transformed. Monetary policy must be loosened as quickly as the economic indicators and the financial markets permit.

Fortunately this happens also to be the right policy for an economy which is still struggling with mass unemployment and has ample potential for non-inflationary growth. A more expansionary economic policy may not be enough to save Mr Major. But some acceleration in the economy alongside the political cycle will do no harm — either to the Tories or to Britain.

LAMONT'S ODYSSEY

Harrogate's Tories should embrace the bold rebel

The Tories of Harrogate, the Yorkshire spa town famous for tea-rooms, good sense and coffee, should prepare the fatted calf this evening. The members of the association in this comfortably Conservative seat have the opportunity to select Norman Lamont, the Tories' prodigal son, as their new candidate. They should take it.

Since leaving the Chancellorship Mr Lamont has shown little inclination to opt for the gentle decline into irrelevance of many former ministers. From his barbed resignation statement to his championing of John Redwood's leadership campaign, Mr Lamont has shown his willingness not just to march towards the sound of gunfire but to fire more than a few rounds himself.

Mr Lamont's past dissent might not, at first, recommend him to the Harrogate Conservative Association. Its members would be mistaken, however, to allow this to obscure his record as a distinguished Chancellor of the Exchequer. Whatever one's arguments about individual items of policy, the Tory party does not have so many MPs of stature that it can afford to lose one unnecessarily.

It is the mark of good parliamentary management — on which the Prime Minister rightly prides himself — to be able to make use of talented rebels. We can particularly recall in this column how Russell and Gladstone's attempts at parliamentary reform in 1866 were thwarted by the Adulterate Liberals under *Times* leader-writer and Caine MP Robert Lowe. The Government fell but when Gladstone came to power in 1874 he made Lowe his Chancellor. From Gladstone to Thatcher, the most energetic administrations have used their outsiders.

Mr Lamont's eagerness to fight for the re-election of a Conservative government stands in marked contrast to too many of his

colleagues. Fifty sitting Tory MPs have already signalled their intention not to stand at the next general election. They may lack the stomach for the struggle, but Mr Lamont is willing to forgo an easy life of ermine leisure and City sinecures. He deserves the chance to stand.

The loss of 50 experienced members from the Tory benches cannot be easily borne by a party that has so felt the want of wise counsel. Mr Lamont will be all the more valuable to them after what promises to be a difficult election. He should be allowed his due part to play in shaping the future of his party. His speeches and articles, particularly on Europe, have stiffened Tory sinews after Maastricht, allowing him to claim, with some satisfaction, after last year's party conference: "We are all sceptics now."

There are particular reasons why Harrogate Tories would be fortunate to have Mr Lamont as a member. They have been ill-served by the charmless incumbent, Robert Banks. A cavalier like Mr Lamont would bring colour to Conservatism in the West Riding. Perhaps, most importantly, the Tories will be under pressure to hold Harrogate from a strong Liberal Democrat challenge. In his 25 years as MP for Kingston upon Thames, Mr Lamont has had to beat back sustained Lib Dem attack. He knows the enemy, and how to defeat them.

In his last speech to the Tory party conference as Chancellor Mr Lamont promised, in the words of Tennyson's *Ulysses*, "to strive, to seek, to find and not to yield". He also knows, in Tennyson's words, "how dull it is to pause, to make an end, to rust unburnish'd, not to shine in use". Mr Lamont has been forced to wander too long in search of a safe harbour. If he found rest in Harrogate, he would serve Harrogate well.

MR ROBINSON

'Male typist claims discrimination by office agency'

Tap, tap... Who's there? A male. A male who? A male typist, typecast and ready to haul you to a tribunal before you can say "55-words-per-minute or my name's not Olivetti..."

This is a story of our perplexing times. Alan Robinson, a twinkling-fingered man-typist from Leeds has just lost his case against a recruitment agency for secretaries. His allegation, that he had been discriminated against by Office Angels — the agency in question — because of testosterone in his typing, was yesterday dismissed by an industrial tribunal. The tribunal's reasons we report on another page: let it suffice here, in expository shorthand, that Mr Robinson appears to have lost on a technicality.

We urge Mr Robinson not to lose heart, nor even to drown his typewriter in a dozen bitter pints of Tetley's. He must pack up his troubles in his old kit bag and type, type, type. Tachygraphy — unlike fortune-telling or child-bearing — is not just a female art. As many men practise it today as do women, although more often for themselves than for another person. And it was not until after the First World War that women clack-clacked their way to the head of the typing pool:

before that men ruled the world of the ink ribbon, and ruled it well.

Mr Remington's early machines were unwieldy beasts, heavy of body and obstinate of key. Bashing a letter out — whether long or short — called for a burliness of which few girls of the age boasted. If T. S. Eliot's typist in *The Waste Land* — the first recorded woman typist in English poetry — was already home "at teatime" and laying out "food in tins", it was because she was worn out with the fatigue of her vocation. It was only when the war was over, the men scarcer and the typewriters sweeter-keyed that women began to colonise the position to which the unhappy Mr Robinson now aspires.

There is a proverb from Africa — the continent, in fact, of the Secretary bird — which says that women "hold up half the sky". We are not told who, or what, holds up the other half, but we have a hunch that it is the men. Hands that hold up half the sky can surely find their way around the less vast keyboard of a typewriter. Let Mr Robinson try and type again: he should have much better luck next time. He is already more famous than he was before his first rejection.

Granada takeover bid for Forte

From Lord Shawcross, QC

Sir, As a former President of the Board of Trade, the first Chairman of the Takeover Panel, one-time President of the Wider Share Ownership Council, and of the British Hotels and Restaurants Association, I welcome your editorial (January 18; see also letters, January 15, 15) warning of the consequences of a Granada victory over Forte. I should say that I also have a family connection to the Fortes, and am a small shareholder in Mercury Asset Management, which holds 15 per cent of Forte and is said to control its fate.

In my view it would be a tragedy for this country, and for the City, if Forte were destroyed in this way. It is a well-established British company woven into the fabric of society, as well as a substantial foreign exchange earner in an increasingly important commercial sector.

Forte's share price in recent years may not have shone. But the company has performed well in very difficult times when many hotel companies have gone to the wall. Now, the hotel trade is beginning to boom again and Forte stands to make excellent profits. These should be reaped by Forte and its shareholders and not lost in an asset-stripping exercise reminiscent of the worst excesses of the 1980s. Shareholders, customers, employees, and the City's reputation would all suffer from Forte's destruction by Granada. It would be against the public interest.

I am confident that when the City institutions consider the wide implications of the bid they will reject it.

Yours faithfully,
SHAWCROSS,
House of Lords,
January 18.

Lottery and charities

From the Chief Executive of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations

Sir, I was pleased to read (report, January 16) some medical charities reporting healthy increases in income in the last year. The returns available show that larger medical research charities have been able to increase their income from planned giving and from legacies, but not from discretionary income.

Unfortunately, as our research into the impact of the National Lottery on charitable giving shows, there appears to be a downturn in discretionary giving to street collections, raffles, coffee mornings, etc.

Our latest figures suggest that the percentage of people actually donating to charity has dropped by some 10 per cent. A number of charities, especially the larger ones, may be able to offset any impact of this reduction by changing their fundraising strategies, although the evidence for this is mixed. It is, however, much more difficult for charities with fewer resources, or those who are very dependent on individual donations, to diversify in a short period of time.

The Home Office has recently announced a most welcome programme of research which will give a comprehensive picture of the impact the lottery has had on charitable income.

In the meantime, it is important that all those concerned with charitable giving are able to get across the message that the best way of giving to charity is through direct donations.

Yours faithfully,
STUART ETHERINGTON,
Chief Executive,
National Council for Voluntary Organisations,
Regent's Wharf,
8 All Saints Street, N1,
January 16.

Lord Colyton

From Mr Andrew Roberts

Sir, Far from disregarding "the golden rule" that politicians should not be definitive about predictions, Henry Hopkinson, Lord Colyton (obituary, January 10) did not actually use the word "never" in the House of Commons in specific relation to Cyprus's future sovereignty.

What he said was, "I am not going as far as that this afternoon", and read out word-for-word the statement which the Cabinet had agreed that morning and which, had it not been for flu, would have been delivered by his Colonial Office superior, Oliver Lyttelton.

Nor was Hopkinson really a "reactionary" over African affairs, although he did believe, along with his friend and colleague Lord Salisbury and many others, that decolonisation was being pursued by Macmillan and Macleod at a pace too fast for Westminster-style democracy to survive once the British left. In view of the plight of democracy and human rights in Africa today, who can doubt they were right?

Colyton was personally friendly with Jomo Kenyatta, Kenneth Kaunda and many other black African leaders, and his deep understanding of African affairs was widely acknowledged.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW ROBERTS,
2 Tite Street, SW3.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Issues at stake in continuing Newbury bypass protest

From the Chief Executive of the Wildlife Trusts and others

Sir, The protests over the Newbury bypass have been portrayed by much of the press recently as the actions of a rag-tag bunch of rent-a-mob activists trying to stop a perfectly reasonable new road which has widespread public support.

This is highly misleading. Building the road would cause serious damage to one of the most beautiful parts of southern England and several sites of major importance for wildlife. These include the Kennet and Lambourn valleys (both rivers have been designated sites of special scientific interest, so are protected in law), Snelmore Common SSSI and a local nature reserve at Rack Marsh. The bypass is opposed, in its current form, by all Britain's leading conservation organisations as well as statutory agencies such as the National Rivers Authority.

There has never been a proper environmental impact assessment because the entry into force of the relevant EU directive in 1988 post-dated (by a few weeks) the start of the first public inquiry into a bypass.

The decision by the Department of Transport to proceed with the road makes a nonsense of the Biodiversity Steering Group's report, received only last month with great enthusiasm by the Secretary of State for Environment, John Gummer. Chalk rivers and heathland were two of the habitats, and others one of the species, singled out by the report for special attention. Ironically, two superb chalk river flood meadows, prime otter habitat and heathland will be damaged by the road.

We know full well that Newbury has a serious traffic problem and that a solution has to be found. But the proposed bypass route is not the answer. According to government forecasts, traffic on the A34 in Newbury will be back to the "intolerable" levels

of today within five to ten years of the bypass opening. A range of alternative options, including better traffic management, would reduce congestion in the town far more effectively and at a fraction of the cost, yet these have only been given cursory consideration.

The actions of the protesters are born out of frustration with the failure of the official system to give any semblance of proper account to the destruction of a truly wonderful piece of English countryside when there are other realistic options available.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON LYSTER,
Chief Executive,
The Wildlife Trusts,
PETER MELCHETT
(Greenpeace UK),
RICHARD MORRIS
(Council for British Archaeology),
ROBIN PELLEW
(Worldwide Fund for Nature, UK),
CHARLES SECRET
(Friends of the Earth),
BARBARA S. YOUNG
(Royal Society for the Protection of Birds),
The Green, Witham Park,
Waterside South, Lincoln,
January 17.

From the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police

Sir, Your report of January 13 on the Newbury bypass protest stated that police had "adopted a tough approach after pressure from local politicians". This comment is entirely wrong. The operational command of the police at the construction site is mine, and I do not accept instructions or pressure from politicians, local or otherwise.

The policy of the two forces involved — Hampshire Constabulary and Thames Valley Police, in a joint operation — is to be even-handed to everyone, whatever their involvement in the Newbury bypass scheme, and to enforce the law firmly and fairly against those who break it.

Hospital future

From the Dean of the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and others

Sir, The medical staff and midwives of Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital much appreciate the expressions of high regard in your article, "The Harvey Nichols of baby units" (January 16). But we are confident that the best future for Queen Charlotte's is in a new hospital for women and children set alongside one of the most important medical and scientific centres in the country.

Many of the innovations in care which your celebrity mothers spoke of have been developed under the auspices of the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Its work is currently undertaken on a split site — Queen Charlotte's and Hammersmith Hospital.

The proposed new £9 million purpose-built Queen Charlotte's hospital will bring the Institute together on the

Hammersmith site. Our research and innovative work would be enhanced and our ability to care for women with complicated pregnancies would be strengthened.

If the hospital fails to move, the limitations of the facilities on Goldhawk Road will hinder its clinical progress and the hospital will not be able to hold its position as the leading centre in the country for the care of women and their babies.

Yours faithfully,
WINSTON,
Dean, Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology,
K. EDMONDS
(Clinical Director, Women's and Children's Services),
M. DEWIET
(Chairman, Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital Medical Advisory Committee),
L. PAGE
(Queen Charlotte's Professor of Midwifery, Thames Valley University),
Hammersmith Hospital,
Du Cane Road, W12,
January 16.

World voyagers

From Mrs Wyn Galpin

Sir, I completely agree with your own observation in your leading article of January 8, that the sentiments it expresses "may sound a puritanical doctrine". The Finch family are to be commended for their courage in undertaking the challenge of a long-term cruise around the holiday world, not criticised for wanting something different and potentially more pleasant than the normal rut.

To observe that they "voyaged only as far as Spain", especially under adverse conditions in the Channel and a difficult passage across the Bay of Biscay, suggests a certain lack of appreciation of what an achievement it is in itself.

It may be that Mr Finch and his family were not sufficiently prepared for such an adventure, and it is certainly a serious misapprehension to imagine that long-term sailing is a perpetual holiday; but as Mr Finch observes, "At least we had a go", and no doubt they learnt a great deal about themselves in the process.

Dreams are most certainly not just for dreaming. They are the primary motivation for us to reach beyond ourselves and accomplish great things. Where would we be without the great dreamers?

Yours faithfully,
WYN GALPIN,
Sailing Yacht *Union Jack*,
Maule Lake Marina,
North Miami Beach, Florida, USA,
January 10.

Primary school needs

From Mrs Betty Root

Sir, I was delighted to read Gillian Shepherd's announcement (report, January 6) of the Government's intention to allocate £25 million to rectify the poor teaching of literacy and numeracy skills in some of our primary schools.

The Reading & Language Centre in the University of Reading, where I was director, ran for many years one-month, full-time, intensive courses to help teachers and lecturers become more knowledgeable about the diverse ways to teach reading.

The courses met a positive response from hundreds of teachers but, like those in many other universities, fell

Cold peace politics

From the Head of the Conflict Studies Research Centre

Sir, In your report of January 3 (later editions), "Wars on the rise, says US think-tank", my colleague, Professor Alexander Kennaway, was quoted as saying that he never believed the Warsaw Pact would attack NATO. Left standing on its own, that remark could mislead your readers as to the position of this centre.

During the Cold War, the Soviet Studies Research Centre (our name at the time) did not think a premeditated attack on NATO was at all likely.

The reason for our confidence was not any naive belief in Soviet friendship or goodwill but stemmed from our conviction that the Soviet leadership regarded war as a tool of policy to be used when peace was no longer helping to achieve the ends of that policy.

As long as NATO remained united and strong, and the threat to use nuclear weapons against the USSR remained credible, war with NATO made no sense to the Kremlin.

The fact that the post-1945 peace in Europe outlived the Soviet Union is due to Western strength and resolution and Soviet realism, not to any dedication to the cause of peace for its own sake.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES DICK,
Conflict Studies Research Centre,
Royal Military Academy Sandhurst,
Camberley, Surrey,
January 10.

victim to the introduction of the single-day structure for in-service training (Baker days) in the late 1980s.

The Government's scheme may be new in being a coordinated national initiative, but it sounds as if it will be reviving much of what was lost at that time. Sadly, in the intervening years, so many children have suffered the indignity of struggling to read, with their self-image unnecessarily impoverished.

Improved standards of literacy and numeracy can only be achieved with long-term and consistent policies.

Yours faithfully,
BETTY ROOT,
5 Kelburn Close, Wincersh,
Nr Wokingham, Berkshire,
January 8.

The project is likely to last two and a half years. During the past week, at the beginning of that long period, our officers worked in accordance with a prepared plan, designed to make clear to everyone the demarcation between the role of police under the criminal law, and the role of the contractors under the civil law of trespass. The question of political pressure does not arise.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES POLLARD,
Chief Constable,
Thames Valley Police Headquarters,
Kidlington, Oxfordshire.

From Mr Adrian Fisher

Sir, I was shocked by your photograph (January 11) of a ring of security men needing to defend a mechanical digger, and your report that it is costing £30,000 a day to provide security for the Newbury bypass project.

These self-appointed environmental pressure groups are showing a cynical lack of respect for the democratic process. They lost the argument at Newbury after 20 years of lobbying and vastly expensive public consultation procedures. Now they are causing further cost to the taxpayer by their aggressively obstructive tactics.

Why should anyone give organisations such as Friends of the Earth the benefit of the doubt in future? They would achieve far more long-term influence and respect if they pickedet from now on in a way that entailed no extra security cost.

I feel strongly and very positively about environmental issues. But I don't feel represented by this self-indulgent and wasteful behaviour. As a taxpayer I feel I am, in effect, being mugged.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN FISHER,
Victoria Lodge, 5 Victoria Grove,
Southsea, Hampshire,
January 11.

Political debate

From Mr David Procter

Sir, Sir John Nott calls upon the media (letter, January 13) to do more to encourage intelligent debate about the great issues facing the country.

Sir Ludovic Kennedy, a media doyen, responds (letter, January 18) by labelling Sir John one of a "sad bunch of Conservative politicians", by delivering a caty personal attack based on a trivial incident that happened more than ten years ago and by concluding with a repetition of personal prejudice that he does not bother to substantiate. How depressing.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PROCTER,
36 London Road,
Marlborough, Wiltshire,
January 18.

Myth exploded

From Mr John A. Baker

Sir, Your leading article, "Up and away" (January 13), says copies of *The Times* were delivered to Paris by balloon during the siege in 1870. No balloons flew into Paris during that time.

Balloons that left the capital carried mail and homing pigeons. The pigeons returned with microscopically reduced letters that were projected on to a large screen and then copied for onward delivery.

The Prussians allowed the United States minister, who remained at his post in Paris during the siege, to receive weekly bags of dispatches, mail and newspapers. That was how *The Times* reached Paris.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. BAKER
(Vice-Chairman, The British Balloon Museum and Library),
3 Wenlock Edge,
Charvil, Reading, Berkshire.

Wonder pills

From Mr Geoffrey H. Lloyd

Sir, Assuming that Mr Osborne's wife is not presently suffering from any of the side-effects threatened by her pills (letter, January 15) she should take them; they will either cure her original malaise or give her a new and interesting range of ailments to worry about. Or both.

Alternatively, the pills would seem to be guaranteed to unblock drains, or even be of interest to the Ministry of Defence as a new means of chemical warfare.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY H. LLOYD,
Longacre, 73 High Street,
Little Wilmsham, Cambridge.

From Dr John Salt

Sir, All drugs are poisons. Take them if the benefits outweigh their side-effects.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN C. SALT
(Consultant anaesthetist,
13 Grafton Square, SW4).

From Mr David W. Hill

Sir, Mr Osborne regrettably fails to name his wife's pills. Are they called "Kill or Cure"?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID W. HILL,
62 Williams Avenue,
Weymouth, Dorset.

